

Understanding the Purpose of Christ's Calling

I. Introduction

Jesus calls everyone to come to Him and experience forgiveness of sins, and right to have eternal life. He also calls us not only to be saved but to serve Him. In order to serve Him we need to understand who He is and what is His purpose for calling us. People failed to understand that on His first coming and plan of God for whole humanity. Most of the Jews took him to be king and deliverer from politically slavery of Rome (Isiah 9 and 11) but failed to understand that he is going to be also suffering Savior to pay the price for our sins.

II. Background/Context (Luke 5:1-11)

- Rejection at his own home town- Nazareth (Luke 4: 14-30)
- Moving to Capernaum-possible town of Nahum
- Teaching, preaching and miracles at Capernaum day before
- Jesus's plan was to reveal Himself, His authority and His ministry program.

III. Calling and commitment of Peter, Andrew, James and John

These four future apostles were business partners of fishing which gave them lucrative income. They were highly skilled and successful with Peter being their leader. But they were also seekers and waiting for coming Messiah. When John the Baptist came preaching repentance and baptizing; Andrew and John became his disciples but when John the Baptist pointed them to Jesus, they left John and followed Jesus (John1:35-42). After the first meeting with Jesus, they came to conclusion that He is the Messiah (Anointed One) and went to back to their old life style and business.

Possibly third day of coming back to Capernaum; Jesus come to shore of sea of Galilee where Peter and company were fishing. Large crowd was following Jesus because of the miracles He did day before (Demon possessed man, healing Peter's mother-in law and many others in the evening). It was about 10:00AM; fishermen were washing their net but had caught nothing all night. After preaching to crowd Jesus tells Peter, put the net again and Peter out of respect and obedience to Jesus, he does exactly what was told to do. Result was unbelievable, they had so much fish in their net that net was breaking and they had to call for help. When Peter saw miracle, he realized He was not dealing with just Master but Lord Himself. He falls at His Feet and worshiped Him. He recognized his own sinfulness and holiness of God, Peter asks Jesus

depart from him because he is sinful man just like Isiah did (Isiah 6:1-7). Anyone who recognize and encounter Holy God will also recognize his/her own sinfulness.

But Jesus encouraged Peter Luke 5:10b, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men". Response of Peter and other three was "they left everything and followed Jesus".

IV. Applications are numerous but main points for learning

- Examine your calling; is he your Just Savior or He is your Lord.
- Jesus requires total surrender like Peter/ Like Elisha(I Kings 19:19)
- Jesus brings total transformation; dedicate your body, mind and will (Rom12:1-2).
- Some are called like Peter to full time ministry while others may be called to be like Aquila and Priscilla, Barnabas and others. Find your gift, polish it and use it to build mature body of believers.
- If you have toiled with your own skills and wisdom but still have empty net, call on Jesus and obey Him(Isaiah 30:18-22).
- Jesus is still calling if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts but obey Him. (Heb.3:7-8).