

Intro: Trip to Chicago:

What is the key element of spiritual growth?

Big build up: Hundreds of thousands of people, Thousands of Churches:

Engagement with the Word of God

There were couple thousand pastors in room: All denominations: All Baptists I'm with: Yea? Didn't know that?

In Ch 5 of Luke this week we are looking at the Foundations of Discipleship!

Jesus is calling some of His first disciples...and in the account we see 3 keys,

3 Foundational Principles of Being a Disciple

Ch 5:1-11 Page 728

1. Listen To The Word Of God.

Vs 1-4

- **Listening:** vs 1 To hear and understand
- **Taught:** vs 3 To communicate truth, to speak one precept, one line upon another

Different ways to Listen:

- *Personal Reading*
- *Meditation (Tie in with silence) Difference with Eastern meditation: (Fill vs Empty)*
- *Sermon*
- *While driving program of scripture*
- *Bible study class*

Applic: However you do it....HEAR the word of God

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

2. Obey Even When You Don't Understand...OR Agree!

Vs 4-6

- **Put out to deep water:**
- **Let down nets:**

Peter's thoughts

~I'm the fisherman

~Everything I know

~You are preacher

~My area of expertise

~My Experience

~I have ALREADY done this! Didn't work

~My background~It's going to cause me double the work (Clean them all over again!)

There ain't no fish out there...aint been no fish...aint gonna be no fish!

Peter's Obedience:

~But because You SAY SO!

~It can go against everything you KNOW to be true

~But when God speaks...that is the answer

Applic: This is one of the essential keys to spiritual life

It is ONE thing to HEAR the word of God. It is quite another to OBEY.

Especially when we don't understand or agree with what He is calling us to do!

1Sa 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."

3. Recognition of Your Limitation And Dependence Upon God.

Vs 7-9

This goes against everything we have been taught our entire lives...but there is something we have to embrace

When it comes to spiritual matters we are absolutely dependent upon God

- **God can do more through us than we could EVER do for ourselves** (Never imagined a catch, much less this!)
- **Peter understood: This was all God! I am a sinful man, I NEED you God**
Hard thing for us to admit
~I haven't made a mistake *~There is a piece of me that is offensive to God*
~Not an error in judgement *~I NEED Him...Forgiveness, Strength, and Guidance*
~Not just going on the wrong path

If you are going to grow...it isn't because of anything you do

You can put yourself in the right environment, provide water, sun, fertilizer

Only God gives the growth!

Applic: 1Co 3:7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

4. Aspire To Something Higher!

Vs 10-11

God has something BETTER for you than ANYTHING you want for yourself!

- Caught So many the NETS broke
- Caught So many boat began to sink
- Caught So many everyone was astonished! Lit = *to be dumbfounded with wonder and amazement*

But here is the Key

- Jesus challenged them
- Think BIGGER
- Think KINGDOM
- Be willing to walk away and follow me

And they did

- Left EVERYTHING
 - ~Left: Forsake, To leave behind
 - ~Everything: Absolutely all

Jesus looked at Peter, James and John, after they had fulfilled the greatest dream every imagined

And said: From now on...Its going to be about Kingdom things!
If you think it was awesome catching perch...
Wait until you see someone trust God for the first time
Wait until you teach someone to put their faith in me
There is NOTHING that will compare with that

CONCL:

- Are you listening to the word of God? (Most of us that's easy part)
- Do you OBEY completely? (This is where it gets hard)
- Are you totally dependent? (Willing to admit...I need some help?)
- Do you Aspire higher? (Have you found a place to invest in kingdom work?)

30 years ago met with two young girls

- ~Baptize them
- ~Baptized their children
- ~Wedding, Divorce,
- ~Little trailer...Some days I see one of them in the foyer and say...Look around

Challenge you...God is doing a great work...Come be a part of it!

Find a place of ministry or service

- ~Winter Relief
- ~Food Pantry
- ~Tyler Heights