

Good morning everyone – Pray

We were made aware that many people and many churches in the world today preach and proclaim a false or a deficient gospel. A gospel that is devoid of mentioning sin and repentance.

But as we learnt last week we need to know what we were once like and what we once did and where we were heading because when you know what you have been saved from that you start to truly understand how amazing God is and how he massively loves you.

And it's this love that compels us to tell others about Jesus as it says in 2 Cor 5:15 **'For Christ's love compels us'**.

I hope that the all consuming urgency of your heart is to play a part in seeing others come to know Jesus our Saviour.

### **Luke 4:38-Luke 5:11**

We are going to keep things simple this morning by taking a look at this passage and drawing out three points. These three points will hopefully help you and stir you to think to yourselves 'Am I doing what I have been saved for?' 'Am I fulfilling the purpose for which God has called me?'

- 1. Jesus Objective**
- 2. Peters Obedience**
- 3. The Overwhelming results**

## **1. Jesus OBJECTIVE**

What we have here is Jesus who has come out of a time of the wilderness being tempted by the devil (Luke 4) and it says that he returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. He went around teaching in the synagogues and everyone praised him.

Then he went to Nazereth, where he was brought up (16 miles away).

He has a run in with some Pharisees delivers a man from an evil spirit and ends up here round Simon/Peters mother in laws house where he delivers her from a fever and she is completely healed.

A few things to mention – Peter has already encountered Jesus.

In John we see Peters brother Andrew first of all encounter Jesus and then goes and gets Peter and brings Peter to Jesus. That's why in v5 of chapter 5 Peter calls Jesus Master.

So this wasn't a case of Jesus happening to see a fisherman and just jump into his boat.

Jesus heals mother in law

Daybreak, Jesus goes of to a solitary place. Why? Spend time with his heavenly father. He often did this, in fact it was one of the habits of his life.

Jesus sets us an example to follow here. If you are going to be giving out, serving and loving people and facing temptation and encountering opposition and negativity.

Anyway at daybreak (relentless) people again. V42 says they tried to keep him from leaving them. (no surprise really).

He could have said, I'll stay here for a while longer, heal some more people. They could have said, we could set up a bless me camp and enjoy the presence of God for a while.

But Jesus knew his objective, his mission as v43 says '**I must** preach the good news of the kingdom of God' **that is why I was sent.**

In Marks Gospel regarding the same passage it says...

'Let us go somewhere else, to the nearby villages so that I can preach there also. **That is why I have come**'.

Jesus knew that his main priority for coming to earth was to seek and save that which was lost. This was his overriding, all consuming passion and purpose was to tell people the good news

#### **John 6:38-40**

38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.<sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

Let's be very clear about this. Jesus would not be deterred or distracted from the objective that God his father gave him.

So Jesus knew his objective and everything revolved around that objective. Time alone with his Father or Social gatherings or traveling or praying for the sick or at the synagogue. That's why he said 'I must' preach the good news. Its imperative that I do.

What about us? What is your objective? Because you have the same one as I do. Are you being distracted or deterred from the main mission?

I'm not taking about giving up our jobs and go around preaching the gospel but in all that you do are you making the most of every opportunity to let your light shine and to tell people about Jesus and not letting things distract you from what you have been saved for.

Remember that people tried to keep Jesus from leaving them but he knew his objective.

Have other objectives taken precedence? Making money? Friends? Job? Its what you think about , pour your money into and plan for.

This morning if your objective isn't seeing the good news proclaimed then make it that.

Lets move on

## Peters Obedience

Its here that he sees Simon Peter and gets into his fishing boat. Simon is on the shore washing his nets after a night of fishing.

Jesus uses his boat as a pulpit to address the people. Again, it's the teaching the people and telling the people the good news (forgiveness of sins, changed lives, hope, joy, new purpose).

He finished speaking and asks Simon to take the boat out into deep water and lets go catch some fish.

This will be the last thing he wants to do.

Reasons why they shouldn't...

- They has just cleaned/mended their nets.
- They are tired (spent the night working hard)
- They were fisherman and although they were disciples of Jesus they may well have easily thought 'What does he know anyway, I'm the fisherman, he' the carpenter'.
- They hadn't caught anything.
- Perhaps they even thought, we are going to look like a right bunch of wally's going out to drop down our nets again in the day. What will people think?

But Simon Peter answers Jesus in v5 But **because you say so I will let down the nets.**

It didn't matter what excuses came to mind, real or perceived. It all came down to one thing and one thing only. What does Jesus say? If Jesus my master says this is what I have to do, even though caught nothing, tired etc then I will do it.

When it comes to evangelism, telling people about Jesus then we are pretty good with the excuses aren't we?

- Don't know enough
- Know everything but it hasn't worked
- Tried it all – didn't work – no results
- Don't want to push them away.
- They will think that I am odd.

Maybe that is the case. We have tried before and it hasn't worked, People have mocked us or rejected us, we haven't had a good experience of telling people about Jesus.

But what it comes down to is obedience. Are you going to obey the one who saved you and gave his life for you or are you going to disobey him. Ill let others do evangelism.

Whether it's embarrassment or fear, make a decision to obey Jesus in this. Peter says the reasons to Jesus why they shouldn't but that's in the natural. In the supernatural its different. When you obey God , who knows what might happen.

Of course this applies to all areas of Christian living not just evangelism.

How many opportunities have we let go by when we could have stepped out and told people about Jesus? Or we could have brought up something spiritual in conversation, but we didn't.

**Rom 1:16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

I have been so guilty of this. Haven't you? What stops you from starting up conversations with people about spiritual matters?

Its really simple, we tell people about Jesus. Look for openings, ask leading questions. You may think you don't know enough, but you know that Jesus has changed you and forgiven you.

**Matt 28** Go and make disciples of all nations.

When Jesus sends out the disciples later on he gives them a very simple command.

**Matt 10:7** As you go preach this message 'The KOG is near', heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons, freely you have received , freely give.

Tell people that Jesus loves them,

but because of their sin they cant know him, they need to be forgiven, Jesus can forgive them, they can know God. If they are sick, pray for them.

**Ill Ruth with lady at work who she laid hands on**

But remember its not doing it in our own strength but in Gods and under his direction. Be open to God and his promptings. Start the day with you praying 'God, give me divine encounters today'.

Don't let your excuses have the victory.

## Overwhelming results

This whole passage is about Jesus using this amazing, miraculous catch of fish to illustrate to his followers what his purpose is, what the disciples purpose is and what are purpose is.

Put simply it's this – We have been saved for purpose and that purpose is to play a part in seeing people come to know Jesus by what you and by what you do.

A few things to note as we draw to a close.

**To be a fisher of men you must be a follower of Jesus'**

Finally, Jesus says 'From now on you will catch men' and they left everything and they followed him.

and we know they did because the first time they let down their nets in **Acts 2** they net 3000 people. It was the main focus of their lives, to rescue the lost.

**Private T Doss**

Conscientious objector, Believer - wouldn't touch a gun, became a medic, called a coward. Ended up being awarded the medal of honour, purple heart and bronze star.

Okinawa, WW2,

400ft cliff, battle on top

75 men fell under heavy machine gun fire

He stayed on top of the cliff lowered them all down - 5 hours – as he was lowering them down he was noted as praying "**Lord, help me get one more. Just ONE more!**"

**Let this be our prayer this morning.**

**1 Cor 9:22** To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.