

The True Destiny of the True Disciple (Luke 5:1-11)

Good morning once again. Grad Sunday is always a packed service. It just flies because there's so much going on. And it's super mixed emotions. So proud of the students that we get to honor but intertwined with selfish sorrow knowing that I won't get to see each of you every week. It's weird feelings.

Brandon Hall even texted me last week about it. So, I tend to get a little emotional from about mid-May on for a couple of weeks. And especially this year. This group. This is our first graduating class that has never had another Student Pastor. I go them when we moved here and they were in 6th grade. 7 years of ME. So if they're immensely successful, you're welcome. And if they're immensely jacked up...sorry!

But church I want you to know about our Student Ministry. We are not a glorified babysitting service...we are not a youth group. We are a ministry and real ministry takes place. So I was thinking and this is what I can remember in the 7 years of ministry, all the series that we have done in The Fallout on Wednesdays and Small Groups when we had Sunday Night stuff. I'll be quick.

- Doctrine: The Foundations of the Christian Faith
- Colossians: Finding Joy in the Preeminence of Christ
- Pray Like Jesus
- Rethink: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament
- Romans – 2 years (60+ messages)
- Joshua
- Haggai
- Jude
- 1 Peter: Living As Living Stones
- Acts
- Judges
- Exodus
- Hebrews
- Heaven (20 Weeks)
- 5 years of Christmas Advent
- 6 Easter Series
- Summers in the Psalms
- Major Lessons from the Minor Prophets
- Twisted: Satan's Approach to the Bible
- 1 Samuel
- The Covenants of God
- And this doesn't even touch series from camps/winter retreats/DNOWs/etc.

The point being this: What we have given you in this student ministry is the foundational components of discipleship.

We have – for 7 years – done everything we can to provide a framework to release you into the world to Pursue Jesus Passionately and Make Him Famous.

- That's the mission statement of our ministry and everything that we say today is nothing new, but one final push to go and do just that.

All of what we do is to create TRUE disciples and I choose that phrasing very specifically. I have named today's sermon:

THE TRUE DESTINY OF THE TRUE DISCIPLE and I chose those words carefully as well.

- Destiny: Modern obsession. Churches all across the Country are trying to tap into the masses by keying in on destiny. You visit the Christian bookstore and spend 10 minutes perusing titles and you will see how glaring this self-centered obsession has plagued the body of Christ. Check the top 100 Christian books of the last year...it's an indictment.
 - o I posit this morning that our destiny is different than we are prone to obsess over and that it ultimately is much better than we can imagine.
- And I use the word "TRUE" here because we are talking about TRUE destiny and TRUE disciples. I want to be clear that this means that there are FALSE disciples and a FALSE destiny. There are disciples that look like Christians, or call themselves Christians, identify as Christians, and maybe positioned right up beside Christ and the Church, but they are not true in their faith.
 - o Judas – Proximity doesn't equal intimacy

So, if we are going to learn this morning and if we want to push you into the TRUE destiny of the TRUE disciple, we should, I think, examine what the first disciples looked like. So read with me if you would in Luke 5, beginning in vs 1.

Luke 5:1-11

Luke 5:1-3

- So Jesus has been teaching in synagogues according to the previous verse but here he is out teaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee...that's where it is. Lake of Gennesaret is the Sea of Galilee. People crowding him up so Jesus being the greatest problem solver, he hops into the boat of a dude named Simon (we call him Peter) and asks him to push away from the side a little bit.

- Peter knows Jesus and Jesus knows Peter. This is not their first meeting. John 1 tells us that right after Jesus is baptized, Andrew and Peter begin to follow Jesus in the sense of hanging around with him and checking out who he is. Peter was a big John the Baptizer guy, so if JtB approves, I'll check him out.
But with this understanding, Peter also knows that Jesus is a carpenter. So Jesus gets in the boat and tells Peter, "Stop cleaning nets, push off, I gotta teach," and Peter obeys.

Luke 5:4-5

- This is where it gets wild to me. Peter is a fisherman. This is what he does. Not only that, but his daddy was a fisherman, his granddaddy was a fisherman, and likely many generations before were fishermen. He has fish in his blood. He is the parabolic Little Merman. He KNOWS fish. And he's been fishing all night and caught NOTHING!
- But this carpenter says go deeper and let down the nets. This carpenter whose dad was a carpenter...who knows wood, not fish...but he knows better than the professional fisherman?
- It would be one thing if Jesus was a professional fisherman.
 - o Michael Murphy story
- But...Peter obeys the carpenter and look what happens.

Luke 5:6-7

- More fish than they've ever seen.
- Oh, THERE'S MORE TO THIS CARPENTER. And Peter falls down in worship.

Luke 5:8-11

- Peter falls down in worship. AMIDST THE FISH. He is surrounded by success and this awesome display of the presence of God and He worships and they get back to the shore, and they drop everything and follow Christ.
- This is the response of the first True disciples and one that I think we learn from.

The True Destiny of the True Disciple is LIFE, through DEATH.

- This is what it is. This is what the Bible teaches. This flies in the face of the false destiny teachings of today.

- Your destiny is not this life. A church not far from here preached a whole series on destiny, main points were:
 - Your destiny through the distractions
 - Your destiny in the detour
 - Your destiny in disguise
 - Your destiny will be difficult.
 - Your problems don't determine your destiny.
 - All about the here and now. All about this life. Friends, don't buy that.

- **YOUR DESTINY IS JESUS!**

- Your destiny is not this life. It IS life, but through death. I'm not talking about physical death per se, though Paul says to die is gain. I'm talking about the death of your desires, your preferences, your wisdom, and the LIFE that comes with your whole surrender to Jesus.
 - This is what Peter did.
 - He put to death his wisdom and experience to follow Jesus.
 - He put to death His desires and preferences to obey this carpenter and toss the net after fishing all night.
 - He put to death his success (which is really what the modern obsession with destiny is all about) and left it all to follow Jesus for good.
 - Your destiny is JESUS.
 - This is why Paul said in **Galatians 5:24**, "All those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
 - **Romans 8:13**, "For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you PUT TO DEATH the deeds of the body (flesh), you will live."
 - And Jesus Himself said this is what True Discipleship looks like when He said in **Luke 9:23**, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross *daily* and follow me."
 - Deny our flesh, crucify it, and follow.
- Friends, the True Destiny of the True Disciple is Life, through Death.

The True Destiny of the True Disciple is FULLNESS, through EMPTINESS.

- What I mean by this is that our definition of the full life has to be worked on, has to be corrected.
- Far too often we hear that Christ has so much to give us and He wants to make our wildest dreams come true. And then, we hear or read **John 10:10**, that Jesus came to give life abundantly, and we think that's what He meant. But today I want to encourage you that the full life is actually a life of emptiness, a life of emptying yourself into others. Pouring your life out that others may find their true destiny is Jesus.
 - Lecrae calls it "Disciple Cycles" – Disciples who make disciples who make disciples. This is what Jesus called the first disciples to:
 - He responded to Peter's worship of Him in verse 10 from the text, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."
 - And from that day forward these men spent their lives giving it away to build the church of Christ.
 - History tells us that these men all died in pretty wild ways for their faith.
 - Paul was beheaded.
 - Peter was crucified upside down
 - Thomas was impaled by four spears
 - James was stoned
 - Matthias was burned to death
 - John, oh JOHN, boiled alive and survived. The Romans were so freaked out that they exiled him with nothing to the island of Patmos where he died of old age. The only one.
 - These men did not live lives of abundance in riches. They lived lives of abundance in relationships.
 - Relationship of worship to Christ and fellowship with the Church. Pouring their lives out for others until they were empty.
 - They Pursued Jesus Passionately and gave their lives to Make Him Famous. And they did so in obedience to Christ's command.

Matthew 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe

all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'”

The true destiny of the true disciples is LIFE, through DEATH, and FULLNESS, through EMPTINESS, all in obedience to Jesus.

May we go and do likewise.

I'm praying.