

Who's Your One? Luke 5

The Summit Church // Jason Gaston // 11/30/14

Intrdocution:

- Welcome/Greeting
- Thanksgiving is over, on to Christmas...
- Christmas chaos...

This year, I want to propose the Christmas season as something different...Rather than a burden...what if we saw it as an **opportunity?** To see someone close to us come to know Christ as Lord.

Research tells us that the Christmas season is the time that someone that normally never comes to church will make an effort to do so.

As we head into this Christmas season, I want us to begin to ask the question **“WHO IS MY ONE?” that question has been weighing heavy on my heart for this sermon..**

You know, it's really easy here at The Summit to get caught up in a movement and completely miss something important...your role in the movement.

It's easy to sit on the sidelines and watch things get pushed forward, watch the ball march down the field but never step foot on the playing field and make a contribution.

You're a great cheerleader but not a great contributor.

Today, I'm hoping that will change, and I hope it will change ONE PERSON AT A TIME. To dig into this a bit, we're going to be in Luke 5:17-26... Read with me.

Luke 5: 17-26

One day as he (Jesus) was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Get up and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...” He said to the paralyzed man “I tell you, get up, take your mat, and go home.” Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on

and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said "We have seen remarkable things today."

A few things for us to see today as we begin to set our hearts and our minds on "Who is our ONE this Christmas season"

1. These men had a mission.

Mission drives us, doesn't it? It drives us as individuals, and it also drives our culture.

Some of you are All-Conference Christians. You have a mission statement for your family. And you've even got them painted by some really artsy person and it hangs over your fireplace.

We develop mission statements for our companies (examples of a few) to help keep us on course. When we get off course from our mission statement, all of a sudden we're not doing what our company was created to do. It defines the basics and essentials.

Instagram: *To capture and share the world's moments.*

Facebook: *A media platform for your grandma to keep up with your grandchildren.....*

(Jesus himself) had a mission statement "*For the son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost.*" - Luke 19:10

What was the defining mission for these men in this passage?

- ***To see a friend walk.***
- Questions to ponder
 - What drives you?
 - What things, spiritually, has God put on your heart to see come into fruition in your lifetime?
 - When was the last time you stopped to think about those dreams?
 - **Parents:** do you dream about seeing your children come to faith in Christ?
 - Do you have a driving passion to see a parent or co worker come to faith?
- **DO YOU HAVE KINGDOM DREAMS??? DO YOU LONG FOR THE THINGS OF ETERNITY or are you satisfied with the moment?**
 - "I despaired at the thought I might let my life slip by without God showing himself mighty on my behalf (p. 23 Fresh Wind)
 - Passion / Vision /
 - Aristotle "*The soul never think withouts a picture*"
- The vision / picture / passion being painted for you in this passage? ***For the lame to walk.***

- When looking for a vision for your life as a disciple, why not look any further than that of Christ himself

In the same vain, These men didn't just have a mission....they also had an eager expectation.

They had an eager expectation

- i. Jesus could heal him
- ii. They thought "MAYBE, JUST MAYBE!"
- iii. When was the last time you took a RISK on God.
 - i. I think about guys like Joshua (God told him he was going to have to be strong and courageous....Willing to take a dare)
 - ii. Elijah on Mt Carmel (1 Kings 18)
 - iii. Shad, Mesh, and Benny in OT
- iv. How much more secure is our hope/belief?
 - i. We're looking back at it from this side...**these guys simply had a hunch, but we have a secure hope.**
- v. **Questions to ponder**
 - i. Do you have an eager expectation of someone coming to faith?
 - ii. **Does that eager expectation move you to action???**

They Encountered an Obstacle

- vi. The place was crowded, there was no way to Jesus

- vii. At this point...many of us give up.
 - i. We throw up the white flag of surrender
 - ii. There's no way in
 - iii. **The "door is closed."** Maybe I need to look for another door
 - viii. For many of us, an open door = path of least resistance
 - i. Imagine for a moment if the apostle Paul would have only walked through open doors?
 1. Half of the NT would have never been written
 - ix. Will you just hone in with me here for a second? Some of you are encountering closed doors, obstacles...and instead of throwing up the white flag in surrender...**YOU NEED TO DIG A HOLE IN THE ROOF!**
 - x. These men saw the obstacle, but because their hope/belief was so strong, they kicked open that door was shut.
2. I believe that some of us have given up on our friends because we're afraid of the obstacles we're encounter in brining them before the throne of Jesus.
 - i. We're afraid of the ridicule
 - ii. We're afraid of the repercussions relationally
 3. **KICK OPEN THE DOOR...if you can't get to the door...DIG A HOLE IN THE ROOF!**

They got more than they bargained for! (v. 25-26)

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Don't settle for the mundane when Jesus wants to do the miraculous.

I love the order that takes place here. It's actually the heart of the gospel.

People thought the primary need was external. What Jesus did in this passage is the same that is true for everyone. He shows us that the greatest need is an internal posture of the heart that needs changed.

Once inner disposition was changed, the external circumstance changed as well.
(sins then physical healing)

At some point, you were the paralytic on the mat, and someone brought you to the feet of Jesus. You were the

one someone had a hope for, someone probably encountered an obstacle in their attempt to bring you to that place. Maybe it was your pride, circumstances in your marriage/family, etc...

“WHO IS YOUR ONE?”

- Parent
- Co worker
- CHILD
- Friend

Jesus told his disciples that if they were going to follow him, He would give them a new task. A new direction. A new mission. It was to be one of the defining characteristic of every believer...that they would fish for people! (Follow me, Jesus said and I will make you fishers of men.)

It's time to start casting our nets. Who's the one you're going to go after?

Today, I want to close with a story from a book I read 6 years ago that changed my life...

Now it came to pass that a group existed who called themselves fishermen. And lo, there were many fish in the waters all around. In fact, the whole area was surrounded by streams and lakes filled with fish. And the fish were hungry.

Week after week, month after month, and year after year, these who called themselves fishermen met in meetings and talked about their call to fish, the abundance of fish, and how they might go about fishing. Year after year they carefully defined what fishing means, defended fishing as an occupation, and declared that fishing is always to be a primary task of fishermen.

Continually, they searched for new and better methods of fishing and for new and better definitions of fishing. They created witty slogans and displayed them on big beautiful banners.

These fishermen built large, beautiful buildings called "Fishing Headquarters. The plea was that everyone should be a fisherman and every fisherman should fish. One thing they didn't do, however: **They did not fish.**

In addition to meeting regularly, they organized a board to send out fishermen to other places where there were many fish. The board hired staffs and appointed committees and held many meetings to define fishing, to defend fishing, and to decide what new streams should be thought about. **But the staff and committee members did not fish.**

Large, elaborate, and expensive training centers were built whose original and primary purpose was to teach fishermen how to fish. Over the years courses were offered on the needs of fish, the nature of fish, where to find fish, the psychological

reactions of fish, and how to approach and feed fish. Those who taught had doctorates in fishology, but the teachers did not fish. They only taught fishing. Year after year, after tedious training, many were graduated and were given fishing licenses. They were sent to do full-time fishing, some to distant waters, which were filled with fish. Many who felt the call to be fishermen responded. They were commissioned and sent to fish. **But like the fishermen back home, they never fished.**

They engaged in all kinds of other occupations....Some felt their job was to relate to the fish in a good way so the fish would know the difference between good and bad fishermen. Others felt that simply letting the fish know they were nice, land-loving neighbors and how loving and kind they were was enough.

Now it's true that many of the fishermen sacrificed and put up with all kinds of difficulties. Some lived near the water and bore the smell of dead fish every day. They received the ridicule of some who made fun of their fishermen's clubs and the fact that **they claimed to be fishermen yet never fished.**

Imagine how hurt some were when one day a person suggested that those who don't fish were really not fishermen, no matter how much they claimed to be. Yet it did sound correct. **Is a person a fisherman if, year after year, he never fish?**

More plainly stated: Is one really following if he isn't fishing?

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Summit Church, it's time to stop talking about fishing and it's time to hit the waters. Fishing starts with one. Who's your one?

' **Darrell W. Robinson, People Sharing Jesus**, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 1995, pp21-22.