

A New Kind of Normal

February 7, 2010

Living A Life of Relinquishment

“¹¹So the disciples pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.” —Luke 5

Jesus was concerned about individuals. He preached to great crowds, but His message was always to the individual; and He took time to help people personally. His purpose was to transform them and then send them out to share His message of forgiveness with others. In Luke 5 we see some of the particulars that allowed the first disciples to leave their livelihood of fishing and follow Him full-time. What were those particulars and where do we see them in our own life?

- ☞ The call to discipleship or relinquishment is full-time, not part-time, quarter-time or “slack-time”
- ☞ Qualities seen in a life of relinquishment: courage, patience, determination, and faith!
- ☞ Because relinquishing your life to Christ makes you vulnerable to Satan’s attack, we are called to work together for support.

In our text, Jesus commands Peter to “push out from shore a little.” That is the first call of faith. Why? Because you don’t fish during the day in deep water in the Sea of Galilee. They caught fish in the shallow waters at dusk and during the night. The second command of Jesus is a “leap of faith” as Jesus tells Peter to push further out. Peter’s response is to call Jesus “master,” not a term to take lightly. Peter was willing to submit to the authority of Jesus, even though he did not understand all that the Lord was doing.

For Thought and Discussion

When we are called to live a life of the “new normal” in following Jesus, we are called to live a life of relinquishment, opening ourselves to the call of God as He directs our life and way. Is your “new normal” in Christ seen in all your life? If so, where? If not, what change can you make for a full-time life of following Jesus? Out of the following qualities, which best describes you, which would you like to work on: courage, patience, determination, and faith. Name one person you recently worked alongside of for the sake of the kingdom. What would that job look like if you had to do it alone?