



Sermon Series: All Signs Point to Jesus

To be used with Session 1: The Sign of His Glory

Sermon Title: Being Obedient

Scripture: Luke 5:4-11

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Sign of His Glory,” this sermon builds upon today’s Bible study by connecting the servants’ obedience at the wedding celebration to Peter’s obedience to Jesus’s command to put down his nets in the deep water.

Introduction: *Doing* and *being* are different words with different meanings. For example, I may need to cut the grass. When I finish that task, I check it off a list and say that it is done. *Doing* is an event that can be completed. The word *being*, however, is not an event but rather a lifestyle. If I have the desire to be more compassionate and loving at home, this is not something to place on a check list. Instead, it is a characteristic that is lived out over a lifetime. As we study God’s Word today, let’s focus on being obedient to God’s calling and not simply seeing obedience as a check list. We will see that being obedient has amazing results.

1. Be obedient, even when it does not make sense (v. 4-5).

It may help us if we understand the context as we start this study. First, Peter and others were fishermen by trade. This was not their first time to be out fishing as they were professionals. Second, the fishing for the evening had come to an end, hence the reason for the other fishermen to be “washing their nets” (v. 2). Finally, it is more difficult to fish later in the day as the fish go to deeper waters for the cool and fishing with a net is top water fishing.

With all of this as context, let’s look at the passage. The good time to fish had come to an end and Jesus told Peter and the crew to put out in the water. The fishing that day was also bad as they had “worked hard all night long and caught nothing.” Yet, He called them to “let down your nets for a catch.” How did they respond? They responded in obedience and let down the nets. Sometimes obedience goes against what we have been trained to do, even if we are a professional. We can also see that Peter and the others did not delay in acting in obedience. They did not argue or fuss, they simply let down their nets, even when it did not make sense.

2. Being obedient impacts others (v. 6-7).

If we study the original language of the text, we do not find any delay between Peter’s obedience and the miracle taking place. While we cannot assume that every act of obedience leads to a miracle of this nature, we can rest assured that God is aware of our obedience and

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is able to respond immediately to it. Those fishing that evening had caught nothing and now “they caught a great number of fish.”

The catch was so great that they “signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them.” This is where we see that one person’s obedience can impact others. We saw this in our Bible study this morning in that the servants followed the commands of Jesus to fill the pitchers with water. Upon being obedient those at the wedding feast were impacted by the miracle of Jesus. If we too strive to live in obedience to the Great Commission in making disciples of all the nations, those with whom we share are impacted by the gospel and have the opportunity to receive the gift of salvation. Our obedience to this command does not go unnoticed and it has the chance to change someone’s eternity.

3. Being obedient yields confession and calling (v. 8-11).

We can learn from Peter’s response in what he did and also what he did not do. He did not seek to receive glory. He did not affirm his own fishing skills. He did not try to take any credit for himself. Instead, he fell at Jesus’s feet and confessed that he was a sinful man. When Jesus responds to our obedience in amazing ways, we cannot help but respond in like Peter did. Jesus shows us His glory and we realize how sinful and inadequate we truly are. Jesus brings the wayward child home, and our response is to celebrate His goodness. Jesus provides for us when we are broke and destitute, and we realize that we are dependent on Him for not only the next bill but also our next breath. We cannot help but confess His goodness when He reveals His glory.

As we respond in obedience, Jesus calls us to not be afraid as He has a new assignment for us. The original language of this passage indicates that He told Peter to stop being afraid because Peter was now to be a fisher of men. Jesus was going to use what Peter was trained to do and called him to be something different. This is another example of how Jesus responded to Peter’s obedience. If He responded to Peter this way, we can rest assured that He will respond to us as well.

Conclusion: The question for us is: Are we responding in obedience to God’s calling? For some this calling may be into a relationship with Jesus. While this may seem scary or confusing, you know He is calling. If this is you, let today be the day that you respond like Peter did when called to put out his nets, even when it didn’t make sense. Let today be the day you respond in obedience and ask Him to save you from your sins. For others, the calling may be to greater leadership in the context of your home, work, or church. You know what He is calling you to be and not simply do. Let today be the day you say yes and trust Him to use your yes to impact others around you so that He gets the glory that He alone deserves.

Tod Tanner has degrees from Texas A&M University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Texas and Tennessee. He and his family reside in Wartrace, TN and he is serving as the Executive Vice President of the Tennessee Baptist Foundation.