

=LIFE OF CHRIST=

Lesson 5

Jesus Chooses His Helpers

INTRODUCTION: The Sunday school lessons for these three months are on the life of Christ. We have followed Him from His preexistence to the beginning of His ministry. He realized early in His ministry that He could not do it alone; He needed helpers. No one can do it alone. Moses had his helpers; Aaron and Hur held his hands high, as we read in Exodus 17:12. Abraham had his faithful servant, Eliezer, who helped in his work. See Genesis 15:2. Gideon had his three hundred men. Read Judges 7:7. The Bible says that Saul went forth “to Gibeah; and there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched,” I Samuel 10:26. David had his “mighty men,” as we read in II Samuel 23:8. Jesus had His apostles. They are named in Matthew 10:2-4. The early pastors had their deacons. Paul mentioned his helpers over and over again. The great secret of success for a leader is for him to choose wisely and to train helpers wisely; then, once the help is available and present, the wise leader will honor his helpers.

- I. JESUS WANTED TO REPRODUCE HIMSELF IN OTHERS. People often ask, “What is the secret to leadership?” One of the great secrets is for the leader to get the followers to do what he does, in other words, to reproduce himself in the lives of others.
- II. JESUS FOUND BUSY PEOPLE. In Luke 5:1, 2, we notice that these men worked hard. They were washing their nets when Jesus found them. Check very carefully in the Bible, and you will find that Jesus always chose busy people; when God called a man, he was busy. When God called Moses, he was busy keeping sheep on the backside of the desert. When God called David, he was busily occupied with his father’s work. When God called these men, they were working at their trade. God has no place for lazy people in His work. One man said, “I guess I’m called to preach; I’ve been a flop at everything else.” No, he isn’t called to preach! God doesn’t call bums; He calls people who are busy!
- III. WORKING APART FROM JESUS IS FRUITLESS. In Luke 5:5, notice the words, “...we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing.” This is the case in the life that tries to serve the Lord without the Lord’s power. The Christian must do what he does in the energy of the Holy Spirit, or failure is inevitable.
- IV. THOSE WHO WORK FOR CHRIST MUST OBEY HIS WORD. In Luke 5:5, notice the words, “...at thy word I will let down the net.” Ah, here is the great secret for the servant of God. Do what the Word says. Open your Bible and find what it says. Obey it. Live by it. Do it.
- V. THEY DID NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARE FOR HIS BLESSING. Notice in Luke 5:4 the words, “...let down your nets for a draught.” Notice in verse 6 the words, “And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.” Notice, Jesus said, “Let down your nets,” but they let down only their net. They did not realize what He wanted to do for them; consequently, they lost much because they were not prepared. We must obey Jesus to the minutest detail in His command. He said, “Use your nets.” They, thinking one would be enough, just used a net. This is why many converts are lost—because we are not prepared for them. We did not expect that many; we do not have room for them. Yes, we’re saved, but our lives become fruitless because we do not prepare for the converts.
- VI. THESE SERVANTS USED WHAT TALENT THEY HAD TO CATCH MEN. Notice in Luke 5:10 the words, “...from henceforth thou shalt catch men.” When a person is converted, he should use what he has. If he can sing, he should sing, but he should sing to catch men. If he can speak, he should speak to catch men. If he is a plumber, an electrician, a carpenter, a magician, a ventriloquist, or whatever he is, he should use that which God has given him to catch men.
- VII. THE MOST PROFITABLE MUST LEAVE ALL. Notice in Luke 5:11 these words, “...they forsook all.” Bear in mind, these were businessmen. They were in business with their father, Zebedee. They were substantial, yet they forsook all and followed Christ. No doubt Zebedee could not understand the fact that his sons would leave his business to follow a Stranger. Yet, the Bible says, “...they forsook all, and followed him.”

VIII. THEY GOT AWAY FROM THEIR WORK. With the passing of the years and with the death of Christ, these men went back to fishing. In other words, they went back to the old way of life, forgetting this experience and the work that they had been called to do. In John 21:6-8 we see that Jesus in His resurrected body went back to them and relived this experience. When Peter went through it again, he once again made the same commitment of himself to the service of Christ. If the Christian wants to stay busy for God, he must relive the time of his commitment; he must give himself over and over again to the cause to which God has called him. Never forget the time when your life was given to Christ and you answered His call to service.

CONCLUSION: Jesus is starting His earthly ministry. He is on earth, and He needs workers. How much more does He need workers today! He is now in Heaven; He does not walk the shores of Galilee anymore. He depends on us to do the work that He did while He was here. Read carefully John 14:12 and 20:21.