

At Thy Word, I Will

I. Introduction

- A. I want point you to interesting little story in Bible that teaches us a lesson about one way we must let our faith in Jesus affect our lives
- B. One reason I decided to remind you of this little episode in Book of Luke is because so many people today have mistaken ideas about what believing in Jesus really means
 - 1. The people I talking about are people who think it is enough to believe Jesus lived and taught good things,
 - 2. they may even believe He is Son of God -- but their faith in Jesus has little-no impact on how they live their lives
 - 3. If Jesus' teaching in Bible requires-supports something they agree w/ or want to do they may feel good about that
 - 4. But if Jesus' teaching requires them do something they don't agree w/ or don't want to do they ignore Jesus' teaching
- C. What I want show you from Bible is a reminder that real faith in Jesus requires us to do whatever Jesus says regardless of whatever else may be true

II. Incident I'm talking about is in Lk5 where Jesus used Peter's boat to teach people gathered along shore of the sea of Galilee and then told Peter to go fishing--Lk5:1-11

- A. What I hope you will esp focus on in that story is what Peter said in v5
 - 1. KJV "And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net"
 - 2. NASB "...Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but at Your bidding I will let down the nets"
 - 3. NIV "...Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets"

4. NRSV "...Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets"
 - B. What I want help you think about is how Peter rose to challenge to do what Jesus said to do because Jesus said to do it
- III. If you remember early chapters in 4 Gospels you will recall that this was not 1st time Peter met Jesus
- A. Earlier Peter's brother Andrew was convinced Jesus was Christ and Peter to meet Jesus – Jn1:41
 - B. Peter was probably also among Jesus' disciples when Jesus turned water to wine at the wedding in Cana – Jn2:11
 - C. Tho the order of events is somewhat uncertain it is possible Peter had also witnessed Jesus miraculously heal the sick including his own mother-in-law – Lk4:39
 - D. So when Jesus taught people from Peter's boat and then told Peter to let down his nets Peter's faith in Jesus already growing
- IV. But what I hope you will be impressed w/ is Peter's willingness to do what Jesus said in spite of reasons against doing it
- A. Remember: Peter was a fisherman and Jesus was a carpenter
 1. When Bible tells us Peter was fisherman it doesn't mean fishing was his hobby but his job -- he probably had yrs-yrs of experience fishing that lake
 - B. Peter had already been fishing all night w/o any success at all Lk5:5 "...we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing"
 - C. After working all night Peter was understandably tired and what Jesus was telling him to do required effort
 1. Lk5:5 "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing" (NIV "we've worked hard all night")
 - D. Since Peter had been fishing all night and it was now well into the daytime (after Jesus had taught people) it was certainly not the best time to try to catch fish in nets

- E. It is possible some of other fishermen would have ridiculed Peter for listening to a carpenter tell a fisherman when-where to fish
- F. But in spite of all the objections some might have offered against doing what Jesus told him to do, because of his **faith** in Jesus, Peter did it
 1. That is what Peter was saying when said “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net”
- V. Reason I mentioned this little incident is because it is a good reminder that real faith in Jesus involves trusting-accepting-obeying whatever Jesus says regardless of everything else to the contrary
 - A. Suppose Jesus’ clear teaching in Bible conflicts w/ ideas-theories of psychologists-psychiatrists-professors-sociologists
 1. Example: Suppose Jesus’ teaching about marriage-divorce-remarriage conflicts w/ what modern day marriage counselors and other experts say?
 2. Example: Suppose Jesus’ teaching in Bible about homosexuality differs from some doctors-politicians-movie stars?
 3. Example: Suppose Jesus’ teaching in Bible about no salvation being possible apart from Him contradicts what many preachers-rabbis-priests-theologians say?
 4. Question: “What does faith in Jesus really mean when Jesus is on one side of an issue and modern day experts are on other side?”
 - B. Suppose Jesus’ clear teaching in Bible just doesn’t make sense to you and doesn’t fit your own ideas about what is right?
 1. Example: What if Jesus’ teaching about withdrawing from certain members of church who become incorrigible seems counter-productive in your opinion?
 2. Question: “What does faith in Jesus really mean when what Jesus says doesn’t fit what we think?”
 - C. Suppose Jesus’ clear teaching in Bible is a minority viewpoint and almost everybody else believes some else?

- D. Suppose Jesus' clear teaching in Bible would require some sort of effort-sacrifice from you that you would naturally prefer not to experience?
- E. What I trying help you remember is: Real faith in Jesus really affects our lives by causing us to do whatever Jesus says regardless of whatever else may be true
 - 1. Real faith will cause us to say (like Peter said after fishing all night and catching nothing) "At thy word I will..."

VI. Conclusion

- A. As conclude study, and as you think about whether you willing to have that kind of faith, let's apply this principle to being baptized
- B. I'm sure I don't need to tell anyone here that there are lots of reasons people can give for not being baptized like the Bible teaches
 - 1. "I don't see what baptism has to do w/ being forgiven"
 - 2. "I know people never baptized and they lived good lives"
 - 3. "It just doesn't seem like it should make any different whether I am really baptized or just sprinkled"
 - 4. "I don't want to go thru the inconvenience of actually being baptized-immersed"
 - 5. "If I am baptized some people will think I've become a religious fanatic"
- C. Point: Just as Peter had reasons for not letting down nets, you can think of reasons not to be baptized -- and if you believe Jesus was just a good man who lived long ago any one of those reasons are good enough to ignore what Jesus said about being baptized
- D. But if you believe Jesus is Son of God (your only Savior) and if your faith is like Peter's faith then what will matter to you more anything else is what Jesus said to do
 - 1. If know Mk16:16, Jn3:5, Ac2:38, Ac22:16
 - 2. And have that kind of faith you will say about being baptized what Peter said: "At thy word I will..."