

Group Resource

Sermon Notes – Sunday, January 20, 2013

JUST DO IT

Message: “Nevertheless”

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

For us to thrive in Christ, we have to put the Word of God into practice, but fear from past experiences can cause us to hold back. Believers have to acknowledge what has happened to them in the past and move forward by accepting the trustworthiness of God instructions.

- I. In a world of broken promises, we can be assured that God never breaks his promises. Throughout the scriptures God reminds us of this truth: “[God’s word] will not return to [him] empty, but will accomplish what [He] desire and achieve the purpose for which [He] sent it.” (Isaiah 55:10-11)
- II. For many of us, the scars of our past affect our ability to thrive in the future. In the midst of challenging situations, we have to remember that God is still at work and His promises will come through. No matter what may be going on, we have to say ‘Nevertheless’, we will obey.
 - a. We have to wrestle against the disappointments of our past and be willing to trust God again. Many great men and women of the Bible had to wrestle with the disappointments of their own past including: Joseph, Abraham, and David.
 - b. When we obey God and the results don’t come out as we would have liked, it doesn’t mean that God has abandoned us.
- III. If we are going to be doers of the word and put God’s Word into practice, it requires three things: submission, humility, obedience.
- IV. 1 - Putting God’s Word into practice requires **SUBMISSION** (Luke 5:2-3)
 - a. Jesus interrupted Simon Peter at one of his lowest moments and asked him to make a sacrifice. The fisherman had worked all night and didn’t catch anything.
 - b. Submission requires us to be willing to allow our plans to be interrupted by God. (even when the interruption is painful, embarrassing, etc.)
- V. 2 - Putting God’s Word into practice requires **HUMILITY** (Luke 5:4-5)
 - a. It was a well-known fact that fish were caught in the Sea of Galilee at night and in the shallow water, not in the daytime or in the deep water. Jesus asked Peter to do what was contrary to all of his training and experience.
 - b. If we think that we are smarter than God, we will be unwilling to listen to His instructions despite the fact that He knows more than us. In humility, we appreciate the wisdom of God’s instructions.
- VI. 3 - Putting God’s Word into practice requires **COMPLETE OBEDIENCE** (Luke 5:6-11)
 - a. God was not looking for partial obedience, but complete obedience from Simon Peter. We cannot stop obeying God because WE FEEL like we have done enough.
 - b. For believers, we inevitably will experiences circumstances in which we have worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. We may have used all of our energy, ingenuity, talent, and resources and still find ourselves far from our goal. It is at these points that we cannot give up.
 - c. Simon Peter perceived that God’s instructions were meant to get more fish. In reality, God was using Peter’s obedience to teach him something greater, how to be a fisher of men.

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Let's Talk Notes – Sunday, January 20, 2013

Message: "Nevertheless"

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

- 1) It's 2013! If you compare yourself to 10 years ago, what has changed about you? Your life? Your successes? Your experiences?
- 2) As you reflect back on last weekend's sermon, what one principle or insight stands out as being particularly helpful, insightful or difficult to grasp?
- 3) The NLT says, "But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves." (James 1:22) Why is it important to not only be a hearer of the Word of God but also a **doer** of the Word? How can you get the Word of God into your heart and mind?
- 4) **Read Galatians 6:9 and Isaiah 40:31.** Too often, believers give up when the road is difficult. But, we are not called to be quitters, we are called to be more than conquerors through him who loved us. Do you find yourself giving up too easy? How do you endure when things are tough? If possible, share some of your experiences of pushing through challenges from work, sports, relationships, or other areas.
- 5) Pastor Joseph said that, "the scars of our past can affect our ability to thrive in the future." This happens when we fail to go through the process of healing from our scars. Neglected or hidden scars can cause us to lose trust in God because we are trying to avoid the pain of yesterday at all cost. How do we practically submit our scars and our pain to God? How does **Hebrews 4:15** relate to this process?
- 6) As you evaluate the important areas of your life (spiritually, mentally, physically, intellectually, emotionally, financially, socially), are there circumstances in which you have failed to walk in complete obedience or given up because things didn't turn out the way that you expected? How can you re-align these areas to the Word of God?