

Answering Aimlessness

(Compiled from Garyslist sources by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. When people are deeply committed to the Lord, they behave in ways the world simply does not understand.
 - 1. How they use their time, choices in entertainment, disposition of money, conversation topics, involvement in a local church, strict observance of moral and Biblical values, frequently seem eccentric to unbelievers
 - 2. Some nominal Christians have one foot in the church on Sunday and the other in the world for the rest of the week.
 - 3. But when a person completely surrenders to Jesus, he develops a whole new way of thinking, feeling, and behaving.
 - 4. Matt. 16:24; Luke 5:11
 - 5. They didn't go on a religious retreat for a week, they went with the Lord for the rest of their lives

I. THE APPEAL OF JESUS

- A. What was it about Jesus that moved the people? - Luke 5:1
- B. A man of complete integrity - Luke 4:1-4
 - 1. Immediately following His immersion, He went into the wilderness where He engaged the Adversary.
 - a. He refused to indulge the desires of the flesh
 - b. He was neither overly proud or falsely humble - Luke 4:5-8
 - c. He was not afraid to stand alone - Luke 4:9-12
 - 2. Integrity is doing what you say you will do, regardless of the consequences or whether anyone is watching
- C. A man of powerful action
 - 1. The people of Nazareth were angered by His claims to be the Son of God - Luke 4:28
 - 2. He answered their charges with action - Luke 4:29-32
 - 3. He earned the right to be heard respectfully
- D. An effective communicator - Luke 4:32
 - 1. With public speaking there are two critical ingredients: content and delivery. If you have something to say and you say it well, you will be an effective speaker.
 - 2. Jesus had an abundance of both - Mark 12:37
 - 3. The peak of Jesus' popularity came in John 6 after He miraculously fed the 5,000. Next day the crowds increased.
 - a. Then Jesus preached on the cost of discipleship, and He lost His audience - John 6:66-69
 - b. Being an effective speaker doesn't guarantee the message will be well received
- E. Genuinely compassionate toward others
 - 1. They were fishermen, tax collectors, common flawed people

2. He did not choose influential, wealthy, famous, articulate sophisticated
3. He chose the teachable, humble, helpless, and often hopeless, because these are the people who will commit themselves to the Lord

II. THE ANSWERS OF THE DISCIPLES

A. Reluctant obedience - Luke 5:5

1. Mark of spiritual maturity when we say, "I don't know why you want this, but I am happy to do it"
 - a. Loving enemies, paying taxes to an ungodly government, assembling with contentious brethren

2. 1John 5:3 - God has not called us to be happy in this world. He called us to do His will; the same thing He expected of Jesus.

B. Immediate reward - Luke 5:6-7

1. They were not prepared for the great responsibility of God's blessings.
 - a. Matt. 19:29

C. Genuine, enlightened humility - Luke 5:8-9; Isa. 6:5

D. Complete, unreserved commitment - Luke 5:10-11

1. Peter was married, fishing was all he knew.
2. Some would have believed this irrational; however, it is a reasonable reaction to the Christ

III. THE APPLICATIONS FOR US

A. Only Jesus Christ is worthy of such complete commitment

1. Family, possessions, careers, sports, vacations, education all impose demands on our time, resources, and attention.
2. There are dynamic, talented people who seek our money, time and allegiance
3. But no pursuit and no person in this world merits your primary interest more than Jesus Christ.
 - a. 100 years from now it won't matter how much money you earned, what titles you held, how many people recognize you, how long your Facebook friends list is, how big your house is, what kind of car you drove
 - b. What will matter is, to what extent were you committed to Jesus?
4. Matt. 6:33; John 11:25-26

B. Allegiance to Christ is expressed in service to others.

1. Jesus did not call the four fishermen to a life of indulgence or personal self-interest; He did not promise them fame, wealth, comfort and happiness
2. Lives spent in pursuit of these things are aimless, pointless and selfish
3. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
4. When you become a committed Christian, your secondary, after your primary focus on Jesus, is on others, not on yourself.
 - a. Greatest commandment: Love God with all your heart.
 - b. Second is like it: Love your neighbor as your self

5. Highest form of service is bringing the gospel to the lost
 - a. This obligation is higher than merely treating others kindly and addressing their physical needs.

Conclusion:

- A. "No man ever followed Jesus who did not become a fisher of men. If you are not fishing, you are not following."
- B. A rather disheveled man in Cincinnati was walking the streets carrying a sign on his chest that read, "I'm a fool for Christ." On his back another sign asked, "Who's fool are you?"
 1. We are going to have to give our lives to someone or something. Why not the worthiest being that walked this world
 2. 1Cor. 3:18
- C. "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."