

An underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is dominated by a large, flat, circular coral structure in the foreground, surrounded by various other coral species. The water is a deep, dark blue, and numerous small fish are visible swimming in the background. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Answering Aimlessness

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- Matt. 16:24 - “Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”
- Luke 5:11 - “So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.”
- They didn't go on a religious retreat for a week; they went with the Lord for the rest of their lives.

The Appeal Of Jesus

- What was it about Jesus that moved the people?
 - Luke 5:1 - “So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret”

The Appeal Of Jesus

- He was a man of complete integrity. Immediately following His immersion, He went into the wilderness where He engaged the Adversary.
 - He refused to indulge the desires of the flesh - Luke 4:1-4
 - He was neither overly proud or falsely humble - Luke 4:5-8
 - He was not afraid to stand alone - Luke 4:9-12

The Appeal Of Jesus

- He was man of powerful action
 - The people of Nazareth were angered by His claims to be the Son of God - Luke 4:28
 - He answered their charges with action - Luke 4:29-32
 - He earned the right to be heard respectfully

The Appeal Of Jesus

- He was an effective communicator
 - Luke 4:32 - “And they were astonished at His teaching, for His word was with authority.”
 - Mark 12:37 - “And the common people heard Him gladly.”
 - John 6:66-69 - “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. 67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, Do you also want to go away? 68 But Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

The Appeal Of Jesus

- Genuinely compassionate toward others
 - They were fishermen, tax collectors, common flawed people
 - He did not choose influential, wealthy, famous, articulate sophisticated
 - He chose the teachable, humble, helpless, and often hopeless, because these are the people who will commit themselves to the Lord

The Answers Of The Disciples

- Reluctant obedience
 - Luke 5:5 - “But Simon answered and said to Him, Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net”
 - 1John 5:3 - “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.”
 - 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.

The Answers Of The Disciples

- Immediate reward
 - Luke 5:6-7 - “And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.”
- They were not prepared for the great responsibility of God's blessings.
 - Matt. 19:29 - “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.”

The Answers Of The Disciples

- Genuine, enlightened humility
 - Luke 5:8-9 - “When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord! 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken”
 - Isa. 6:5 - “So I said: Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

The Answers Of The Disciples

- Complete, unreserved commitment
 - Luke 5:10-11 - “and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men. 11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.”

The Applications For Us

- Only Jesus Christ is worthy of such complete commitment
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
 - John 11:25-26 - “Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

The Applications For Us

- Allegiance to Christ is expressed in service to others.
 - When you become a committed Christian, your secondary focus (after your primary focus on Jesus) is on others, not on yourself.
 - Highest form of service to others is bringing the gospel to the lost

The Applications For Us

- “No man ever followed Jesus who did not become a fisher of men. If you are not fishing, you are not following.”
- 1Cor. 3:18 - “Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.”
- “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.”