

Intentional Collaboration: Challenging others to Greatness

Luke 5:1-11

Our world is changing faster than any of us can remember; our communities that once gave us a sense of stability, strength and steadiness are now fractured by the insecurity of an unstable economy, the lack of moral and just leadership and a pandemic that continues to push us to the brink of insanity. All these serve to create an uneasiness and fear of the future as individuals and believers.

As we begin 2021, we must be willing to hear what the Lord is saying to us in this crucial hour. God is calling His people together in ways that we have not wanted to consider in the past. However, with unique challenges facing us that force us to think about life in new and imaginative ways, we must be open Jesus' call to work together.

Can anyone here today stand to be more productive, more effective, more dependable, more trustworthy, more consistent? Well guess what God wants to show you how to make it a reality in your life. It starts with being ***intentional—a thing done deliberately, on purpose.*** Our intention moves to an action; in this case, it is called ***collaboration—to work together, especially in an intellectual way.*** Jesus desires us to be so much more than we are settling for and it is going to take us working with each other to realize the great things he has for us.

In today's lesson Jesus helps us believe that anything is possible as he shows us that there is more to our relationships than we imagined.

I. Shallow-Water Teaching (Luke 5:1-3)

A. Press of the Crowd (v.1)

1. Must learn to like being around other people (vs.1)

- a. Ministry is a people business, if you do not like people you will not stay in business. (Mt. 9:

B. Solution of the Ship (vv.2-3)

- 1. Must learn to trust other people in order to achieve best results (vs.2a)
- 2. In order to get to your next level you are going to need help (v.2b)
- 3. People can help you get the most out of your gifts if you let them (v.3a)
- 4. Must learn to distance yourself from people in order to be heard (vs.3b)
- 5.

II. Deep-Water Miracle (Luke 5:4-7)

A. The Reluctant Expert (vv.4-5)

- 1. Must learn to "call" people "out" of their comfort (v.4a)
- 2. You can't challenge others deeper if you don't go with them (v.4b)
- 3. Be willing to risk the relationship for the greater reward (v.5)

B. Bursting Net (v.6)

- 1. Great trust yields great rewards (v.6a)

C. Sinking Ships (v.7)

1. A call for help is a sign of trust not weakness (v.7a)
2. More help allows for a more effective outcome (v.7b)

III. Simon's Epiphany

A. A Sinner's Confession (v.8)

1. Must learn that greatness comes as we accept our weakness (v.8a)
2. The more unimportant we become the more valuable we are to Christ (v.8b)

B. The Fisherman's Astonishment (vv.9-10a)

1. Humility can be contagious if we are sincere (v.9)
2. Jesus calls people out of their astonishment to an assignment (v.10a)

IV. Jesus' Call

A. Fear Not (v.10b)

1. A first encounter with the Lord may be terrifying, trust is the answer (v.10b)

B. Fish for Men (v.10c)

C. Forsake All and Follow (v.11)