

HOW GOD GETS US READY TO BE HIS WORKERS - LK. 5:1-11

Introduction

- A. Text: **Lk. 5:1-11**.
- B. Preparation is important to any work, especially when the work is the Lord's.
- C. But what it takes to get ready to do *effective work in the Lord* is often contrary to the *world's idea of readiness*.
- D. The miracle recorded in **Lk. 5:1-11** gives us an indication of how the Lord prepared the men who became His apostles to *begin their preparation!*

I. OUR TENDENCY TO DOUBT

- A. Because our *perspective* is so much more limited than God's, His will for us often seems unwise to us - **vv.4,5**.
 - 1. God's way often seems "counter-intuitive."
 - 2. "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (**Prov. 14:12**).
- B. If we only obey when God's will coincides with our judgment, then our "obedience" will *not really be obedience*. We will be following our own wisdom and our own will, rather than God's.

II. FAITH'S WILLINGNESS TO ACT

- A. To Peter's credit he was willing to do as the Lord said — *just because it was the Lord speaking!* "Nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net" (**v.5**).
 - 1. God's will is not to be judged in terms of what we predict to be the *consequences* of an action.
 - 2. God's will is not to be defined in terms of what we think is *reasonable*.
- B. The very essence of "faith" is that we *obey*, based on our *trust* that God knows what He's doing - **Prov. 3:5,6**.
- C. Faith's governing principle is that *it always does good to do good* — and good is always defined as *whatever the Lord commands*.

III. THE GREATNESS OF GOD'S PROVISION

- A. When we are willing to act in faith, God brings about results that far exceed our expectations - **vv.6,7**.
- B. God richly blesses those who are willing to trust Him - **Eph. 3:20,21**.
- C. We need a greater vision of what God can do through His faithful people - **Eph. 1:18-20**.

IV. THE IMPORTANCE OF REVERENCE AND HUMILITY

- A. The proper response to demonstrations of God's power is reverence - **v.8**.
- B. To catch even a glimpse of God's glory is to be reminded of our own unworthiness - **Isa. 6:1-13**.

- C. It is often those who have been guilty of great failure in life, but have finally learned reverence and humility, that end up being the most effective workers - **1 Cor. 15:9,10**.

V. READINESS TO LEARN GOD'S WORK

- A. When our hearts have been prepared by reverence and humility, then we are *ready to be taught* how to be God's workers - **vv.9-11**.
- B. Discipleship involves the willingness to be "trained" - **Hb. 12:11**. Cf. **Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 4:7,8**.

Conclusion

- A. It is often our "self-confidence" that keeps us from doing what we should do in the Lord — and that keeps God from being able to accomplish His purposes through us.
- B. If we suppose that we are doing God a favor by offering our services to Him, we are not yet ready to be His workers - **Mt. 3:7-10**.
- C. May we make whatever changes we need to make in order to be *prepared* for the Lord's work - **2 Tim. 2:21**.