



Something Different

By Jeff Bedwell on January 8, 2021

READING: Luke 5

Jesus often acted in ways different from people's desires and expectations because He lived His life in harmony with the Father's will and ways. When people were looking for Him, Jesus would often "withdraw to desolate places and pray" (vs. 16). Jesus hung out with "tax collectors and sinners" (vs. 30), much to the consternation of the religious leaders.

If we are going to follow Jesus, we too will have to live differently than the society around us and sometimes in opposition to the expectations of others - religious and irreligious.

Jesus called His disciples to try something different - to fish at a time and in a way that did not make sense to them as experienced fishermen. At times, His disciples had to "leave everything and follow Him" (vv. 11 and 28).

Most of us will not have to leave everything to follow Him, but it is very likely that we will have to leave some things. We may have to say "no" to some good things to say "yes" to His best for our lives. Christ will ask us to prioritize our lives differently, to attempt something we have never done before or do something familiar in a way that does not make sense to us. The quality of our life and our relationship with Christ will depend upon our willingness to do something new and different or to do something familiar in a new and different way.

What might God be calling you to leave behind in order to embrace His best for and through your life? What new or different thing might God be leading you to prioritize and practice in order to fully follow Him and fulfill His purposes for your life?

PRAYER: "Father, help me to not let fear in any form keep me from fully following You. I ask You to lead me and empower me to live differently in order to make a difference in the world and in the lives of people around me."

TOMORROW'S READING: Weekend is for catch-up and review.

MONDAY'S READING: Luke 6

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