

Obedience That Blesses Others

2 Tim 4:7 - I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

With his mentor in prison and his church in turmoil, Timothy was probably not feeling very brave.

Paul may have been subtly telling Timothy that **the Lord would stand by him**, as he did Paul, and give him the courage to continue to preach and teach the gospel.

- **God always gives us the strength** to do what he has commanded.
- **This strength may not be evident**, however, until we step out in faith and actually begin doing the task.

Luke 5:1-11 - Jesus Calls His First Disciples & provides a miraculous catch of fish.

*1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, **the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God**. 2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and **asked him to put out a little from shore**. Then he sat down and **taught the people from the boat**.*

*4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."***

*5 Simon answered, "Master, **we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything**. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."*

*6 **When they had done so**, they **caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break**. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and **filled both boats so full that they began to sink**.*

*8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"** 9 For he and all his companions were **astonished at the catch of fish they had taken**, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, **"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."** 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him**.*

Key Point: When we respond to the calling of God it not only blesses us, but those that are around us.

Common courtesy is like a secret code of ethics that people use.

- Saying thank you for something, holding a door open, letting someone go ahead of you in the grocery line when you have a lot and they don't.
- Just showing your self-friendly helps your own character, but even more *blesses those that are around you.*

Many times, we come to church because we need something from God.

- Or we're doing our best to maintain our spiritual walk.
- Or we're trying to grow in the eyes of God.

We need to be obedient to the Spirit of God and to the principles that are *found all throughout the word of God*, being a blessing to someone else!

The 5 principles of Obedience to the Spirit of God

- Obedience of hearing the word –
Rom 10:17 - *No one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ.*
- Obedience of faith –
Rom 16:26 - *The eternal God commanded his prophets to write about the good news, so that all nations would obey and have faith.*
- Obedience of surrender –
Rom 6:13 - *Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.*
- Obedience of sacrifice –
Rom 12:1 - *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*
- Obedience service –
Acts 26:19-20 - *“So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. 20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.*

Then there's the Obedience of being a blessing to others.

Facts on the Book of Luke:

- **Luke = light**
- **Written by Luke**, 68-63 AD and covers about 34 yrs.
- **Within the 24 chapters** of Luke's writings, parables, miracles, teachings, and Calvary are all recorded.
- Very detailed gospel **such as Matt.**
- **Luke describes Jesus as:** Son of God, God my Savior, horn of Salvation, A light to the Gentiles, Friend of Sinners, Good Master, Lord of the Sabbath, The Glory of Israel.....
- **Key Verse: Luke 19:10** - For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Being a Blessing to Others:

Luke 5:1 - *One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.*

The people were crowding around him: The people of God would press into the church to hear the preaching of the Word of God. **(Concerts, sports analogy)**

Hear the word of God: The word "hear" is to give audience, to understand.

The word is supposed to build you up, but it's also to break you down, to make you feel uncomfortable at times.

- *It's to break your flesh so that your spirit may be strong!*

Luke 5:2 - *2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.*

Saw two ships left by the fisherman: The ships were "idle".
(Jesus picked Simon's boat).

They were washing their nets: How many people out there are leaving there boats empty and washing their own nets?

It's our job to tell people that their boats don't have to be empty and washing their own nets.

Luke 5:3 - He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

Asked him to put out a little from shore: First act of Faith was being required.

Some people you can't even mention the name of Jesus, they'll either run or shut the conversation down.

But there's others who know about the mercy and goodness of Jesus!

He sat down and taught the people from the boat:

- **Jesus is sitting down** which was the common posture of Jewish teachers.
- The lake was like an amphitheater, perfect for speaking to a large audience.
- A small cool breeze over the still lake.

Luke 5:4 - 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

When he had finished speaking: after he preached (Example of Church preaching)

**Launch out/Let your nets down for a catch: Taking of your vessels.
(Example of taking your ministry/gifts)**

Backsliding and personally being on fire!

Luke 5:5 - Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

[Master] translated The word here used means a "prefect," or one placed "over" others, and "teacher" or "guide."

Toiled all night and have taken nothing: "Toiled" to work hard.

It can get very **discouraging and frustrating** when you've been working, handling your business and **you feel like you're not getting anywhere.**

Luke 5:6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

Because you say so, I will let down the nets:

Peter gives us the example here of responding to the word of God and acting upon the word of God.

When they had this done: The blessings came forth.

Luke 5:7 - So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

They signaled their partners: "beckoned" to make signals.

They came, filled both the boats: This is where obedience blessed others.

Luke 5:8 - When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

He fell down at Jesus' knees: This was a common posture of "supplication."

- He had no doubt now of the power and knowledge of Jesus.
- In amazement, wonder, and gratitude, and not doubting that he was in the presence.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - 9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

11 *And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

Henry Longfellow could take a worthless piece of paper, write a poem on it, and make it worth \$6,000. That is Genius

Uncle Sam can take paper, stamp an eagle on it, and make it worth a dollar, that is called money

An artist can take a piece of fifty-cent canvas and paint a picture on it, make it worth \$1,000's. That is art.

God can take a worthless sinful life, wash it with his blood, put his Spirit in it, and make it a blessing to all humanity. That is called salvation!

Ps 62:7 - In God is my salvation and my glory; The rock of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

Luke 5:9-10 – 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

Don't be afraid: He calmed their fears.

With mildness and tenderness, he stilled all their troubled feelings!

To their surprise announced, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

- You will fish for people.
- You will be a minister of the gospel.
- Your business shall be to win people to the truth that they may be saved.

Luke 5:11 - So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

For us, following Jesus means more than just acknowledging him as Savior. We must also leave our pasts behind and commit our futures to HIM.

CLOSE:

- **Noah blessed others** by building an Ark by faith.
- **Moses blessed others** by his **obedience & delivered** the Israelites out of Egypt.
- **Paul blessed others** with his missionary work.
- **Timothy blessed others** through his Pastoral Leadership.
- **David blessed others** with his example for being a man after God's own heart.

The Apostles blessed others because: They were in fellowship with Jesus, obedient to his commands, were in one accord with each other, honored the scripture, and prayed.

Jesus healed, preached to the multitudes, feed the hungry, comforted, showed mercy, and went to Calvary!

Romans 5:19 - For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

We were born into Adam's physical family line, reaping the results of Adam's sin.

- We have inherited his guilt, a sinful nature, and *the consequences of God's judgement*.

Because of Jesus, however, we can trade judgement for forgiveness.

- We can trade our sin for Jesus' righteousness.

If we do nothing, we have death through Adam; but if we come to God by Faith, we receive life through Christ.

Which family line do you now belong to?

2 Tim 4:7 - I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

We must also leave our pasts behind and commit our futures to HIM.