

GET ON BOARD WITH THE LORD

Luke 5:1-11

- **In our MY CHURCH series we want to help people become more connected to Jesus Christ and to Celebration Church, so they can begin to really fulfill His purposes and plans for their lives.**
- **In our world we have "Jesus Fans" who are at times enthusiastic admirers of the Lord, and "Jesus Followers"who are committed disciples of Christ.**
- **Ordinary and sinful individuals can become "Jesus Followers."**
- ***"What does it take for someone to become a real "Follower" of Jesus?***

"Getting On Board With The Lord" Requires:

BEGINNING A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

- **Peter, Andrew and James and John had previously met Jesus.**
- *"Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who had heard what John said and then followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother, Simon, and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which means the Christ). Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus."* (John 1:40-42)
- **Connecting with Jesus involves *Believing He Is God's Son*.**
    - *"For God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16 NIV)
    - Jesus – *" "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6)
    - **Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God who lived a sinless life, died to pay the penalty for our sins, rose from the grave conquering death and Satan, reigns today in heaven with the Heavenly Father, will return to further establish His kingdom on earth, and deserves to be Lord of every aspect of our lives.**
- **Connecting with Jesus involves *Receiving Him As Our Savior*.**

    - *"To all who believed Him (Jesus) and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God."* (John 1:12)
    - **In the New Testament, when people received Jesus as their Savior they soon took the step of "baptism by immersion" (Acts 2:37-41, 8:26-40, 16:25-34).**
    - ***When did I receive Jesus as my Savior and how has He changed my life?***
- **Jesus will accept anyone who accepts Him as God's Son and Humankind's Savior (Luke 5:27-32)**

"Getting On Board With The Lord" Requires:

<u>DEEPENING</u> OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

- *"When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Now go out where it is deeper and let down your nets, and you will catch many fish.' 'Master,' Simon replied, 'we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, we'll try again.' And this time their nets were so full they began to tear!* (Luke 5:4-7)
- **We strengthen our relationship with the Lord by *Hearing His Voice*.**
    - **We primarily hear from the Lord as we: 1) Study His Word (Psalm 119:104-105), 2) Listen to His Spirit (Acts 8:27-29, 13:2), 3) Counsel with His People (1 Corinthians 2:12-13), and 4) Attend Worship Services (Romans 10:14-15).**
    - Jesus – *"My sheep hear My voice and follow Me."* (John 10:27)
- **We strengthen our relationship with the Lord by *Doing His Will*.**
    - Simon - *"Master . . . if you say so we'll try again."* (Luke 5:5)
    - **It can be disconcerting or difficult to do the Lord's will, but when we obey the Lord, we reap blessings in our lives.**
    - **We need to obey the Lord by: 1) living for Him (Romans 12:1-2), 2) giving to His work (Malachi 3:10), 3) serving Him (1 Peter 4:10), and 4) taking the step of "baptism by immersion" (Matthew 28:19-20).**
- **We strengthen our relationship with the Lord by *Answering His Call*.**
    - *"Simon Peter fell to his knees before Jesus and said, 'Oh, Lord, please leave me - I'm too much of a sinner to be around You.' . . . Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!'"* (Luke 5:8-10)
    - **No matter how big a sinner we've been, the Lord can still transform us and utilize us in His work.**
    - **The Lord has called all and gifted all of His "followers" to serve Him and others (Ephesians 2:10, Romans 12:6, 1 Timothy 4:14-15).**
- **It takes selflessness and sacrifice to serve God and others.**

- ***What steps do I need to take to "deepen" my relationship with the Lord?***

"Getting On Board With The Lord" Requires:

<u>COMMITTING</u> TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

- *"Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."* (Luke 5:10-11)
- **The Lord wants us to be committed to a life-long relationship of loving and following Him.**
- **Having a committed relationship with Jesus requires *Letting Go Of Our Fears*.**
    - **Anxiety and fear keep many Christians from fully surrendering to and serving the Lord.**
    - *"When I am afraid (LORD), I put my trust in You."* (Psalm 56:3)
    - *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace."* (Philippians 4:6-7)
- **Having a committed relationship with Jesus requires *Living By Faith*.**
    - *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by FAITH in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)
    - **When we live by faith, we can expect to experience the Lord's direction, provision and protection in our lives (Psalm 37:3).**
- **People who are committed to a relationship with Jesus are willing to take the step of "baptism by immersion" (Acts 2:37-41, 8:26-40, 16:25-34).**
- ***In what areas of life do I need to trust God more?***

- *"Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. . . . ' Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day."* (Acts 2:38,41)
- **"Jesus Followers" receive Him as their Savior, experience the presence of God's Spirit, and then take the step of baptism.**
- "'Followers' understand that following Jesus is a pursuit that may cost them everything, but it is the best investment they could ever make." - Kyle Idleman, *Not A Fan*
- ***What steps do I need to take to become a real "Jesus Follower"?***