

## Obedience Always Brings Blessings

● (Luke 11:27-28)

### INTRODUCTION:

1. In Luke 11:14ff. we learn that Jesus had just cast out a demon and was accused by the Pharisees of doing so by the power of Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.
  - A. Jesus responded by stating that Satan's kingdom divided against itself would fall.
  - B. He follows this with a discussion of how when an unclean spirit is cast out, if one does not fill the hole, that spirit will return with seven more wicked spirits and again reside in that man.
2. At that point, the following takes place (Lk. 11:27-28 – “While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.”<sup>28</sup> But He said, “On the contrary, **blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it.**”).
3. That is a most **astounding claim** that we should take to heart.
  - A. This woman expressed how wonderfully blessed one would be to have a son like Jesus.
  - B. Yet Jesus stated that it is not a physical relationship to Him that brings the greatest good, but those *truly blessed* are those who **hear and keep God's word**.
  - C. In other words, Jesus affirmed that a greater blessing than what was inherent in being Jesus' own mother awaits those who are willing to **hear and obey God's word**.
- 4. That is what I want to talk to you about this morning...how hearing and obeying the word of God always brings blessings.
  - A. To do that I want to focus on the events recorded in Luke 5:1-11 that was just read.
  - B. Then I will make some applications from those events that should impact our lives.

### BODY:

#### ● I. The Events (Luke 5:1-11):

- A. The crowd was eager to hear God's word and pressed against Jesus as He stood by Lake Gennesaret, or the *Sea of Galilee* (5:1-3).
  1. Seeing two boats empty because their owners were cleaning their fishing nets, Jesus got into one, which was owned by Peter.
  2. Jesus *asked* Peter to move it out from shore, allowing him to sit in it and teach the crowd.
- B. After Jesus finished teaching, He *commanded* Peter to put out into the deep and cast out the nets for a catch (5:4-7).
  1. Peter, though expressing some misgivings, obeys Jesus because he is “Master” (i.e., one who has authority – 5:4-5)
  2. Peter's obedience brought great reward (5:6-7)!
    - a. For, he received a magnificent catch!
    - b. In fact, the catch was so big that the nets began to break. And it filled Peter's boat and his partners' boat to the point that both were sinking!
- C. When these men saw the miracle and understood its meaning, they reacted in proper fashion (5:8-11).
  1. Peter responded as does anyone who finds himself in God's presence. He acknowledged Christ's true position as “Lord” (Kyrios) and his own sinful unworthiness (5:8).
    - a. Such a reaction is common when one encountered God (Isa. 6:5 – “Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.”).
    - b. When we see the amazing grace of God in sending Jesus His Son to earth, we must acknowledge Jesus' position and address our sins as well (Acts 2:36 – “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both **Lord** and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified...<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “**Repent**, and each of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”)!
  2. The astonishing nature of the catch was not lost on Peter's companions nor his partners, James, and John (5:9-11).

- a. They were all amazed at the power Jesus showed in this act.
- b. So, when Jesus tells Peter not to fear and that *from now on* he would be catching men, both Peter and his companions believed and “left everything and followed Him!”

## ● II. Application:

- A. Obedience to the Lord in *small matters* is essential to *receiving greater blessings*.
  1. These events began with Jesus’ request to use Peter’s boat as a podium (5:1-3).
    - a. Peter had a simple, but significant, choice to make—comply or not?
    - b. Suppose Peter had responded:
      - i. “I can’t help you right now because I’m busy cleaning my nets.”
      - ii. “Why don’t you ask to use that boat over there?”
  2. Any answer but “yes” would have ended the chain of events that were steppingstones to further blessings from Jesus that changed Peter’s life forever.
  3. So, we should learn to view even the smallest act of obedience to be of great value in service to God (Mk. 9:41 – “For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because of your name as followers of Christ, truly I say to you, **he will not lose his reward.**”).
  4. Maybe we should ask ourselves more often if we are giving the right answers to God’s wishes so that He can bless us and change our life as He desires!
- B. Faith expressed in obedience produces blessings (5:4-7).
  1. When Peter obeyed Jesus’ command (this one was not a request – imperative mode) to put out into deeper water and let down his nets, great blessings followed.
    - a. This was Peter’s second opportunity, or test, to see if he would obey (5:4-5).
    - b. This time Peter had **even more reason not to do so!**
      - i. Peter was a *fisherman* by trade being commanded by a *carpenter* to put out the nets.
      - ii. He *had just been cleaning* those nets and putting them out meant doing it all again.
      - iii. Peter and his partners had worked hard fishing *all night long and caught nothing*.
    - c. **It is here**, when we are faced with God’s command and our inability to understand its value or meaning, that ***faith can only be expressed in obedience***.
      - i. Nothing else will do. No great confession of faith, etc., will suffice.
      - ii. True faith will only be proven by obedience!
  2. If Peter had done anything other than *what Jesus said*, he would have missed out completely on the greatest fishing experience of his life, and more importantly, he **may have missed out on being chosen as one of Jesus’ apostles!**
  3. It is important to know that God’s greatest blessing, which is that we are allowed to be disciples of Jesus, is founded on obedience.
    - a. Lk. 6:46-49 – “Why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? <sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when a flood occurred, the torrent burst against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup> But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great.”
    - b. **So, I should ask ourselves** if I am stopping the flow of God’s blessings because of some act of obedience that I have rationalized away by convincing myself that “It does not really matter,” or ‘It’s too difficult,’ or that ‘I don’t have time,’ or ‘Someone else can do it’ etc.?
- C. Obedience to Christ always benefits others (5:3, 6-11)
  1. Think of how many people were blessed by Peter’s obedience.
    - a. Peter’s willingness to launch his boat meant the crowd was able to see the Lord and hear His words, which gave them the opportunity to receive **life!**
      - i. Jn. 6:63 – “It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are **spirit** and are **life.**”

- ii. Jn. 5:24 – “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who **hears My word**, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life**, and does not come into judgment, but has **passed out of death into life.**”
    - b. Jesus himself also benefitted, seeing Peter’s obedience enabled him to sit down in comfort while he spoke.
      - i. Acts of obedience are acts that benefit the Lord.
      - ii. Such will come to light in our favor on Judgment day (Matt. 25:34-40 – “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in;<sup>36</sup> naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink?’<sup>38</sup> And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You?’<sup>39</sup> When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’<sup>40</sup> The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”).
    - c. Peter’s obedience meant he and his companions were blessed...
      - i. By taking in two vessels full of fish!
      - ii. But more importantly, they had the opportunity to witness the Lord’s supernatural provision and the power and authority it displayed, which led to their full conviction that Jesus is the Christ! (5:11).
  - 2. In the same way, others will be blessed by our obedience.
    - a. In the world (2 Cor. 2:14-16 – “But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and **manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.**<sup>15</sup> For we are a **fragrance of Christ** to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;<sup>16</sup> to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an **aroma from life to life.** And who is adequate for these things?).
    - b. In the marital relationship (1 Pet. 3:1-2 – “In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives,<sup>2</sup> as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior.”).
    - c. When parents are faithful to Christ the whole family is blessed.
    - d. When a child obeys it will often bless his or her parents, causing them to experience God’s favor through their obedient lifestyle.
- D. When we obey Jesus, we will not be disappointed (5:6-7)
1. It seems likely that Peter assumed Jesus’ command to let down his nets would amount to no more than a waste of time. But the Lord did not disappoint!
    - a. For when he obeyed, Jesus brought about a miracle that filled Peter with amazement.
    - b. Jesus turned repeatedly empty nets (fished all night) and two empty boats into full ones.
  2. Jesus does not disappoint those who will obediently follow Him today.
    - a. He can take a hopelessly condemned life of sin and give eternal salvation to those who obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9 – “Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.<sup>9</sup> And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him”).
    - b. He can take our emptiness and abundantly fill it (Jn. 10:8-10 – “All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.<sup>9</sup> I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be **saved**, and will go in and out and **find pasture.**<sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; **I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.**”).
  3. We, like Peter, must recognize that obeying God is always the wisest course of action.

- a. So, maybe you have hesitated to obey God because you fear the consequences of your decision.
  - i. But the Lord's command is for you to fear him above all else, knowing that the same sovereign, omnipotent God who keeps your heart beating and the planets orbiting is more than able to handle the results of your obedience.
  - ii. When he tells you to do something in His word, then you need to obey based solely on who is doing the talking—that He is the LORD and Savior.
- b. When you choose to obey the Lord, He will bless you, because obedience always leads to blessing.

CONCLUSION:

1. I want to exhort you to set a goal to obey the Lord no matter what He asks and allow Him to work in your life.
2. If you will do so, great blessings await. In fact, a **crown of life**—eternal life—awaits all those who will faithfully obey Jesus through the thick and thin of life (Rev. 2:10).
  - A. If you are a Christian, do not forget what the Hebrew writer has said (Heb. 10:35-36 – “Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. <sup>36</sup> For you have need of endurance, **so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.**”).
  - B. If you are not a Christian, if you have not submitted to Jesus in obedient faith, then the same choice and challenge is presented to you that was presented to Israel (Deut. 30:19-20 – “I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, <sup>20</sup> by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life...”
  - C. **So, why not choose life, why not choose obedience?**
3. Will you come, will you obey? I invite you to do so as we stand and sing?