

Loving Jesus Personally

Luke 5:1-11

I. Old Chinese proverb says “The journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.”

In other words, “everything must have a beginning.”

1. Every process must start somewhere.

B. The process of becoming a true disciple is no different.

1. It must also have a beginning—a starting point

C. Today we are looking at that starting place

1. Where true discipleship begins

2. Where it must begin

D. True Discipleship begins by loving Jesus personally

1. We enter into a love relationship with Jesus

2. As we continue along the process of true discipleship this love relationship grows and deepens.

II. First thing I want you to see today is Loving Jesus Personally is the most crucial of all the steps in the process of TD

Without a love relationship with Jesus you cannot even take the first step . .

1. You cannot begin the journey

2. You cannot initiate the process

B. It is the most important thing—in fact Jesus said it is the only necessary thing

C. Today we shall see the importance of loving Jesus personally in Peter—a TD **READ TEXT**

II. True Discipleship Starts with a Loving Jesus Personally

Peter had a personal relationship with Jesus

1. This was not the first time Peter had laid eyes on Jesus

2. You might think Peter was working at the SEA of Galilee one day and Jesus comes along teaching the crowds

*He sees this boat and tells the man to take Him . .

B. This was not the case—Peter had known Jesus before this day

1. Luke 4:38-39

38 Then He got up and left the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her. 39 And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.

2. Also notice there were two boats on the shore that day (2) Luke 5:2-3 **He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which**

was Simon's, . . .

*Jesus chose to get into Peter's boat because He knew Peter

3. Peter had a love relationship with Jesus

C. This love relationship with Jesus is what separates Christianity from the religions of the world.

1. Christianity is a relationship not a religion

2. It all starts when we enter into a love relationship with the living Lord Jesus.

3. Without this love relationship—a person just has a religion

D. One day a man who was an expert in the Old Testament law ask Jesus—if we could only obey one law which one would be the most important

1. Jesus answered...Matt 22:37-39

37 And He said to him, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND." 38 "This is the great and foremost commandment.

E. Jesus only defines eternal life one time and He defines it in terms of a loving relationship.

John 17:3

3 "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

*know = intimate relationship

Luke 1:34 Mary— I know no man

F. This loving relationship with Jesus is so important—Jesus says it is really the only necessary thing in life!

ILLUS Luke 10:41-42

*Tell story

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things; 42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

G. It is the only necessary thing because without it we only have a religious life not eternal life!

ILLUS Matt 7:21-23

22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

1. A religious person can masquerade as a True Disciple.

2. Look at these people—

3. They did the things a true disciple does

*prophesy in Jesus name —sharing Jesus

*cast out demons—loving others practically

*perform miracles—serving others

4. Yet, because they did not love Jesus personally—they only had a religion that took them straight to hell

5. Jesus said *“I never knew you, Depart from me you who practice lawlessness.”*

That’s why I say— Loving Jesus Personally is the most crucial of all the steps in the process of TD

III. Evidences of Loving Jesus Personally

[1] We obey His Word.

Luke 5:4-6

When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets."

Peter shows his loving relationship with Jesus by obeying Jesus’ command

1. Jesus would later tells His disciples that obedience shows one’s love for Him

John 14:15

15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

B. A evidence that we love Jesus personally is We obey Jesus’ Word (Bible)

1. This Book becomes our rule book for life
2. It is the only infallible rule of faith and practice
3. Bible tells us what to believe and how to act

C. We submit to the Bible as the authority of our life

1. Peter did not want to go back out . . .
2. But, he submitted to the authority of Jesus’ word and took the boat out

D. We accept the Bible’s wisdom above the prevailing wisdom of our day

1. The wisdom of Peter’s day said you do not fish in the daytime

*Fishing is done at night

*The nets have to dry during the day to be used again at night

*To obey Jesus Peter had to accept Jesus’ wisdom above . . .

2. If we are going to obey God’s Word we too must accept the Bible’s wisdom above . . .

*homosexuality

*addictions—drunkenness

*divorce

E. We obey Jesus even when it is costly!

1. Physically and emotionally costly

*Peter was tired, hungry, sleepy

2. Financially

*He has already lost one night's wages and now he might lose two

2. Our loving obedience to Jesus will also cost us emotionally, physically, and financially!

F. Your level of obedience to Jesus is a good measure of your love for Him.

[2] We worship Jesus

Luke 5:6-9

6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man! 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;

Peter is showing us true worship

1. He was amazed

*astonished, awe struck,

*He was caught up with the greatness of Jesus

*His worthiness

2. He falls down in humility before Jesus

"Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

*When we see Jesus for who He really is, we see ourselves for who we really are.

3. That is what true worship is:

The honor, glory, praise, and exaltation of the Creator, Sustainer, Savior, and Paraclete.

B. The level of our love relationship with Jesus is evidenced in the level of our worship.

1. Corporate worship

*Do you regularly attend Sunday worship?

Heb 10:25

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

*Do you lift up praises to God by joining in the singing with all of your heart?

*Do you come to worship have confessed your sins and turned your attention to Jesus?

*Do you come to worship expecting to experience God's presence and guidance?

*Do you show your respect for God's Word by taking notes or

following the outline.

*Do you seek to apply the truth of the message to your life?

2. Personal worship—what level?

*have a regularly time with Jesus in prayer and Bible study?

*do you take time to praise and adore Him, thanking Him?

*Is He speaking to you through His word?

*Are you receiving comfort and strength from His word?

[3] We give up all for Him

Luke 5:11

11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Peter gave up everything to follow Jesus

1. He gave up his business, his livelihood for Jesus

2. The level of Peter's love for Jesus can be seen in how much more he loved Him than his possessions!

B. Jesus knows how our possessions can possess us.

1. How our money can capture our heart and hold us captive to greed.

2. That's why He said God's chief rival in our life was our money.

Matt 6:24

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

3. A very good indicator of the level our a love relationship with Jesus is the way we give our money to Him.

*You cannot love Jesus personally without giving financially to Him.

*Because our money is so personal to us, so much a part of who we are and what we do, Jesus is saying we cannot separate our giving from our love for Him.

C. Jesus said our heart will be where our treasure is

Matt 6:20-21

"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; 21 for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1. Simply put: **If God has our treasure then He has our heart**

2. **If He does not have our money then He does not have our heart**

D. How is your level of giving?

1. Are you giving at least a 10th?

2. Do you give joyfully or like paying a bill?

3. Do you realize that everything you has is really His?

4. Do you love Jesus more than you love your money?

IV. Now we see why loving Jesus personally is the first and most crucial step in becoming a true disciple.

Everything else in being a true disciple hinges on our love relationship with Jesus.

That's where it all begins

The evidence that we love Jesus personally

Is seen in our obedience to Him, our worship of Him, and our giving to Him.

V. Do you love Jesus personally?

1. Realize you need Him because you are under the holy wrath of God because of your personal sins. **Rom 3:23**

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

2. God became man in Jesus and took our place on the cross

Rom 5:8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

3. Through Jesus we can have peace with God

Rom 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

4. We receive Him through faith

Rom 10:9

9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

***Confess Jesus as Lord**

—Surrender your will to His will

—Turn away from sin in your life

***Believe God raised Him from the dead**

—Place your trust in Him

—Trust He did everything necessary for your salvation

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