

Jan 29th 2006: The process of knowing the Lord: Luke 5: 1-11—Call of Peter

Yesterday at our Deacons.....Purpose Statement

We are here to Know God and make Him Known

Now when you think about it....something we spend a lot of time doing

In our(worship...home groups....Jesus kids....encouragement of daily)

We promote and develop by the Holy Spirit.....the Knowing of God

And we will never stop doing so....because non of us...ever stop needing to grow

We also realize.....that gaining knowledge of God is more than just hearing.....

IT's a process of hearing...doing...responding...trusting:::::

One that must continuously be repeating itself

WE SEE THIS PROCESS REVEALED.....in the story of Simon Peter in Luke 5

Simon Peter was a commercial fisherman....prob a 10 metre
His livelihood revolved around

On the partic occasion.....He is involved in one of those arduous tasks....cleaning

That morning the surroundings were diff.....Instead of the normal near deserted beach

And in fact.....soon the crowd became so huge.....that Jesus requested from Peter

So here we find Peter....in a sense compelled.....by his position in his boat....to listen
He was not one of the crowd
He had not come to the beach.....in order to listen
He was just someone.....happened to be in the place where God could...did ..speak

*(I always remember the story of Charles Spurgeon)
(Taxi driver in Malaysia.....Adolphus from Phil Yancey)*

So Jesus preached.....Peter sat and mended his nets.....And Peter listened

But as I said.....Knowing involves more than just hearing
It involves being challenged

*Let me say that if you are here week after week.....
Yet never allow yourself to be challenged.....*

*Then you will not move forward in your Knowing of the Lord
And one day....accept responsibility for that
For the hours you sat.....and didn't hear*

When Jesus finished teaching He made the challenge for Peter as clear as it could be
Luke 5:4 tells us.....fronted Peter up and said.....

It makes you wonder what Jesus had been teaching about ????
God's provision....The need for Faith.....That He was here to do the work of the Father

For Peter though.....A request fraught with difficulties

Jesus was a great teacher and.....But not a professional fisherman
Peter knew there were no fish out there
He had just spent hours getting his nets ready
It was already embarrassing enough to have come back empty....

So Simon has an initial reluctance to do what Jesus said

He knew doubt respected Jesus.....wanted to do what He asked
But what Jesus asked.....demanded a lot of effort.....already tired

Yet the voice of Jesus compels.....as so many of us know
When God calls you into something.....Its so hard to say know

Peter's.....But because You say so, I will
Is the answer that God loves to hear

Is God waiting for that answer from you

Has He been laying on your heart something.....seems so hard...so fruitless...demanding

For the sake of growth in your knowledge of Him.....you need not just To hear the challenge.....But by faith to launch out into the deep....as...

For Peter...what happened next was much more than the miracle
He saw the greatness of God.....and His own sinfulness

This is where true growth in the knowledge of God really begins

Peter saw the impossibility of a relationship

And then heard Jesus say....come follow me.....
I Want you to be part of my team.....My family

Its something that initially happens.....When we first become a Christian

But we need to re-live it again and again

And we do so during those times.....when we discover thro challenges we face
How little we deserve God's help.....But just how much we want it

The challenge may be a task God calls usThat we feel so nervous...unprepared 4

It may be a situation in life....that tests our faith to the limit.....Yet calls us to endure

It may be an outpouring of His grace...that like Peter.....all we see is our unworthiness

But what it is in reality.....Is God leading us on the pathway of knowledge
Knowledge of Him
Knowledge of His love
Knowledge that causes us to shine for Himin places of darkness

*(Yancey and the crumbled picture.....Is God using something in your life
to remind you of His love)*

So growing in Knowledge.....IS a process

And this morning God knows where each of us is

He knows those of you who just happen to be.....You're a captive audience
He challenges you to really seek Him.....To discover the love He has for you

He knows those of you who are struggling with the challenge.....
He calls you to trust Him....**To take the step of Faith that will change....**

And he knows those of you who are re-experiencing Him,
Some through a new awareness of His power.....His greatness....your smallness

Some through challenges that seem so hard.....but you know He is with you

Some through a deepening of your love and desire to do His will

This morning God seek communicates to us all.....the next step in the journey
Of knowing Him.....are we willingly to take it.