

At Your Word

Luke 5:1-6

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Does God _____ seriously? Does He _____ what He says? We're going to compare God's way with _____ reasoning. The Lord Jesus promised His disciples, "If you continue in My _____, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you _____" (John 8:31-32). We want the truth; we don't want to be deceived by speculation or human tradition. We want the truth that makes us free, and the Lord Jesus is the trusted _____. He never misleads with half-truths or false promises. He doesn't play games or _____ the rules. You can _____ Him to speak straight and to lead you to righteousness.

The great question of life is not whether God created the world in six days, or whether Jesus really lived, or whether there is life after death. The great question of life is whether we will _____ when God speaks. Will we _____ Him or will we trust our own judgment? If we listen to God, He will _____ the other questions for us. If we're unwilling to listen to God, we'll live in uncertainty, blindly searching for a clear conscience and eternal life and yet missing the _____. Wouldn't it be sad to _____ your opportunity to know the truth? Don't let that opportunity slip away. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy truth, and do not _____ it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding."

When it comes to eternal life, ignorance is not _____. To ignore the way of the Lord is to _____ His grace, His favor, and His blessing. To ignore the way of the Lord is to abandon _____ for heaven and living with God eternally. Don't miss the blessing of God; open your heart and your ears to hear God's _____.

Our reading today comes from the Gospel According to Luke 5:1-6.

This event in the _____ of Jesus took place on the Lake of Gennesaret, sometimes known as the Sea of Tiberias, the Sea of Galilee, or the Sea of Chinneroth. Two empty _____ were standing by the shore. The owners had returned from a night of _____; they had caught nothing and were washing their nets. Jesus entered one of the boats, and Simon pushed the boat off the land a little. Jesus sat down and began teaching, using the boat for his _____.

After teaching, Jesus said, "Put out into the _____ and let down your nets for a catch." You can imagine how they must have felt after a long night's work with _____ to show for it. Simon Peter answered, "Master, we _____ all night and took nothing! But at your _____ I will let down the nets." Even though they didn't feel like it, even though Jesus wasn't a professional fisherman like they were, and even though they were ready to quit, they _____ what Jesus said. They put out their nets and they enclosed a great number of fish, to the point that their nets were breaking and they needed _____ to draw in the fish. Both boats

were so full of fish that they began to _____. Astonished, Peter fell down at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me, for I am a _____ man, O Lord" (verse 8).

Peter, by trusting in his own experience and judgment, listened to Jesus with _____ and questions. He had to _____ for himself what God could do. When Jesus' Words proved _____ beyond any expectations, Simon Peter recognized his _____ in failing to trust the Lord. Luke, guided by the Holy Spirit, recorded this true story for our learning and our _____. We would do well to _____ from this story.

First, we need to know that God's instructions do not arise from _____ philosophy or reason. The time for fishing had passed. To continue casting their nets now that it was sunny was _____ to their human standpoint. I'm sure that they could have made some informed arguments _____ following the Lord's instructions. This is not the first time the Lord commanded something that _____ human reason.

Do you recall the Lord's admonition through Moses that the children of Israel sprinkle _____ on their doorposts to avoid the tenth plague? From a human viewpoint, one may _____ what one has to do with the other. Do you recall Moses stretching out his _____ over the waters to bring about the parting of the Red Sea? Do you recall God command to Moses to _____ the rock to bring about water? Do you recall God's telling Moses to put a bronze _____ on a pole, which could cure everyone who looked on it? Human philosophy would never connect the command with the _____. Do you recall Joshua and Israel marching around Jericho for seven days in order to see the walls of Jericho _____? Surely, this was not a military _____ that humans would design! Do you recall Naaman, the leper, dipping himself seven times in the Jordan River to _____ his leprosy? When Elisha told him to do this, Naaman got _____. He thought Elisha would call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Dipping in a muddy river was offensive to his human pride and his wisdom.

In the wisdom of this world, the cross is foolishness. **Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-29.**

God is the _____ of all spiritual truth; it is His place alone to say what His conditions are in order to receive the blessings of His promises. Human philosophy may _____ us understand some things, but listening to God is necessary. God didn't ask the counsel of the wisest men but has at all times _____ His divine wisdom in dealing with men. **Read Romans 11:33-36.**

Second, we need to remember human experience does not measure up to Divine _____. Many people today reject anything and everything that doesn't correspond to their own _____. But our Lord's power and wisdom cannot be _____ by human experience. We cannot _____ something simply because we don't understand it. Many can't accept the virgin birth or the resurrection because they can't understand _____ these things could happen. They say such things are against _____. They've never seen a man _____ from the dead, so they don't believe it can happen. However, the believer accepts whatever the Word of God says, even though he has _____ experienced such things. He realizes that truth can come from more sources than his five _____.

Some people refuse to _____ the commandments of the Lord because they think these commandments are foolish or because they go against the social grain of our day. Frankly, we need the _____ that Peter showed. He said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will _____ as You say and let down the nets.” (Luke 5:5). Peter sacrificed his own practical knowledge and skill as a fisherman to _____ to the authoritative Word of Jesus. We too need to say, “I will do as You say....”

When we truly love the Lord and believe in Him, we want to know what His _____ is for our lives. So, we’re _____ to ask, “Lord, what will you have me to do?” We’re ready and eager to do the will of the Lord, because we know that His wisdom and power _____ with what He teaches and instructs us to do. When the Lord teaches us His will, we don’t _____ with others. We listen to the One who bore the cross, the One who _____! We don’t want other _____ to confuse and mislead us.

Third, we need to see the _____ between listening to the Lord and refusing to listen. The prophet Jeremiah proclaimed God’s Word when Israel _____ to hear. He said, “To whom shall I speak and give warning That they may hear? Behold, their ears are _____ And they cannot listen. Behold, the word of the LORD has become a reproach to them; They have no _____ in it” (Jeremiah 6:10). Their refusal to listen to God led them to follow _____ and to be enslaved to sin.

Jeremiah _____ over how far the children of Israel had fallen away. They became greedy and cheated one another; they worshiped other gods; and they scorned the Word of God. Jeremiah asked, “‘Were they _____ because of the abomination that they’ve done? They were not even ashamed at all; They didn’t even know how to _____. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; And at the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down,’ says the LORD” (Jeremiah 6:15).

Though the Lord wanted to give them every opportunity to _____, the people refused. Jeremiah said, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient _____, Where the good way is, and _____ in it; And you will find _____ for your souls.’ But they said, ‘We will _____ walk in it’” (Jeremiah 6:16). Oh, they were stubborn and rebellious people. Jeremiah’s prophecy that Babylon would come in and _____ them came to be true. The Jews _____ greatly because they would not do what the Lord says.

When the Lord _____ us what to do to be saved, how the church is to meet, how to worship, how to live pure lives, and how to serve others, are we listening? When the Scriptures teach that we are no longer under the _____ covenant but are under the _____ covenant, are we listening? When the Lord teaches us about the _____ of life and marriage, are we listening? When the Lord teaches us that some behavior is _____, are we going to debate with Him? Are we going to treat the Lord as if He doesn’t understand our _____, as if He were naïve and has no right to govern our lives?

When it comes to our salvation, instead of debating with the Lord who _____ us,

shouldn't we say, "I will do as you say"? If the Lord commands us as penitent believers to be _____ in His name, immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins, why should we argue with Him? When it comes to how we _____, shouldn't we take into account what pleases the Lord? You can't entertain people to the point that they will _____ themselves and take up a cross. Conversion to Christ _____ more than pop psychology, preaching, and an entertainment form of worship. You can't get people to repent of their sins if you never _____ against sin. Sadly, some preaching has become so _____ and ineffective that many don't even know their behavior is sinful. In some cases, they've never been taught the Word of God; they've been deceived with a _____ of selective spirituality and cultural dogma! Teachers have led them to believe that they will _____ no consequences for their sins. The wisdom of men sounds reasonable, but it's not the Lord's _____. It's a broad way that leads to destruction, always has been; it's a house that's built on _____.

If we intend to _____ the promises and blessings of God, then let's listen to His instructions in the Word of God. When God makes a _____ with a condition to be met, He never grants the blessing until the condition is met. The blessings of God come _____ obedience, not before. God cleansed Naaman after he dipped seven times; God healed the Israelites of their serpent bites after they looked upon the bronze serpent; God gave Israel water after Moses struck the rock; and God saves us after we obey His teaching. Have you obeyed?

When we obey the Lord, the Lord blesses us far _____ our expectations. When Peter let down the net, "they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break." Peter never imagined that they would catch so _____ fish. They had to get their partners to come and _____ them! They filled up both boats, so that the boats were beginning to sink! Our God is "able to do _____ more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the _____ that works within us" (Ephesians 3:20). When we _____ the Lord in repentance and baptism, God grants us the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). But, He gives us far _____ than forgiveness. He causes us to be _____ again (John 3:5). He adds us to the number in His _____ (Acts 2:47). God makes us His _____ (Galatians 3:26-27). He _____ us by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

Someone says "Well, I don't understand how being immersed in _____ saves us; I thought the _____ of Christ saves us." The cleansing blood _____ away our sins when we are baptized in water. God does the cleansing. Romans 6:3 says, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His _____?" Baptism _____ us with Christ in His death. Baptism is the time when our souls come in _____ with the death of Christ. Romans 6:6 says, "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be _____ to sin." This takes place when we are baptized. We have been buried and raised with Him in baptism, and that's when we begin our _____ in newness of life. The blessing follows the obedience. I'm asking you, won't you be obedient to the Lord today?