



Punched – A Call
Sermon Discussion Questions – August 21st 2022

Scripture Passages:

Mark 1:15

“The time promised by God has come at last!” he announced. “The Kingdom of God is near! Repent of your sins and believe the Good News!”

Matthew 4:19

¹⁹ Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

Luke 5:5-11

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

1 Peter 2:9-10

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Warm Up

1. Fall is approaching fast and with it comes things like football, cooler weather, leaves falling, bonfires, pumpkin spice everything, and so much more. What things of fall are you looking forward to the most?

Discussion

1. Pastor Tom gave us a definition of holiness from Keith Drury's book *Holiness for Ordinary people*. "Holiness is loving God with all my heart, mind, soul and strength and loving my neighbor as myself. Simply put, Holiness is Christlikeness. Holiness is not an "it" as in "have you got it?" It's him I need. In him I find purity, power, and obedience. Jesus Christ himself is the definition of holiness and its living example."
What are your initial reactions to this quote? How does this change or impact your understanding of holiness?
2. Pastor Tom talked about a calling which he said, "A calling is when God issues an invitation to a deeper level of following him."
The first calling is to salvation which includes the response of repentance. How would you define repentance? What does it look like to repent?
3. The next circle of a calling is a call to simplicity which includes a response to reorient our lives around a single purpose.
Do you feel as if the fire of responding to a call to salvation has died down because of the noise of life? What singular purpose do you think God is calling you to?
4. Read Matthew 4:19 and Luke 5:5-11.
How do the disciples respond to Jesus' calling here? What can we learn about the call to simplicity from these verses?
5. The third circle of a calling is a call to mission. A call to a mission is when we are summoned to one particular cause and assigned a specific task. The response to a call to mission is sacrifice and discomfort for a season.
What cause or task is God calling you to, to help with the mission? What might you have to sacrifice to do this?
6. Pastor Tom explained that God's calling is preceded by God's promptings and God will often test the waters in our lives before he calls us to a deeper level of following.
What are the differences between God's prompting and calling? If you have experienced this before share how God began by prompting you and then called you to something.
7. Pastor Tom explains some obstacles that are in the way between our following of God and his calling for us. He gives some potential obstacles such as our stubbornness, our agenda, and our defeat.

Have you or are you creating these obstacles in God's calling for you? What other obstacles are keeping you from God's calling?

8. "When God calls us and we follow, God's grace is magnified. When you reach beyond your capabilities not only is our need for God evident, but also his willingness to be there, his faithfulness is on full display" -Pastor Tom.
In what ways has God called you and have felt God's grace in a new or more full way?
9. "Don't be afraid" are the words of Jesus found in Luke 5, Jesus says this because He knows that fear is the thing that will keep us from saying yes to what He is calling us to.
What things do you fear that God is calling you to? Is there a deeper reason to this fear like feeling out of control or not wanting to be uncomfortable? How do you think God will show up when fear doesn't derail us from His calling?
10. Oswald Chambers says this about a calling, "The call is God's idea, not our idea, and only on looking back over the path of obedience do we realize what is the idea of God." But as to whether or not God comes through, "we have nothing to do with the afterward of our obedience."
How does this truth help give you freedom to step into what God may be calling you to?

Next Steps:

Spend some time with God as you are reflecting on these questions.

1. What level of calling is God calling you to (salvation, simplicity, or mission)?
2. What obstacles are getting in the way from you living into this calling?
3. What things do you need to surrender to God to live into this calling?