



Dysfunctional Relationships-Part Four
Avoid Accountability – Low Standards
 How Big Is Your God?

Introduction:

1. We're on our fourth study of dysfunctional relationships. What are some factors that make it impossible to avoid accountability?
 - Where does it all start?** – [inner man] – a person's view of God (Who God is / What He's done)
 - Who Told You That You Were Naked?** – Genesis 1 establishes biblical authority – God as our Creator has the right to determine our purpose of life
 - People Matter to God** – Genesis 3:15 – when Adam sinned, God had a plan to 'redeem' mankind – to buy him back and offer him eternal life in Christ
 - Two Key Elements: The Cross & Empty Tomb** – the price Jesus had to pay for our salvation (His physical and spiritual suffering should motivate us to reach out to others)
 - One Thing In Common** – Sin; we're all sinners by nature – we tend to look on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart – and we're all the same – sinful people need a Savior

 2. It's time to hit the pause button and evaluate how we're doing: [READ James 1:22-25]
 - the thrust of this passage is being a DOER of the Word and not *simply* a HEARER!
 - > there is a time to 'hear the Word' – to listen to what God has to say . . . but that should result in OBEDIENCE (being a doer of the Word – a changed/changing life!)
 - I'm going to ask a very profound question: **What's the difference between being a 'hearer' of the Word and a 'doer' of the Word?**

 - let's turn to our passage of study today, and ask the question: **How Big Is Your God?**
- [READ Luke 5:1-11 – explain context – the lake was a fertile plain on W. shore of the Sea of Galilee]
- Each of the Gospels has a different audience and overall purpose in the way Christ is presented
 - √ Matthew – written to the Jews – presents Christ as the King of Kings
 - √ Mark – written to Romans – presents Christ as the Servant
 - √ Luke – written to the Greeks – presents Christ as the Son of Man
 - √ John – written to the World at large – presents Christ as the Son of God

- Luke is the longest book in the NT – has more details about the life of Christ – Luke being a doctor, you can understand why his gospel is the longest (pastors are always getting picked on about that issue—the doctors are really more wordy and ‘long-winded’!)

“Jesus was concerned about individuals. He preached to great crowds, but His message was always to the individual; and He took time to help people personally. His purpose was to transform them and then send them out to share with others His message of forgiveness.” – Warren Weirsbe, Be Series, Vol. 1, p. 185

I. What was Jesus doing? [Context of this Event]

- this event is NOT the same as the ones mentioned in Matthew 4:18-22 or Mark 1:16-20
 - > in this event, Peter had been fishing all night and caught nothing
 - > they are washing their nets and laying them out to dry (if not, nets would rot and break)
- Jesus has been teaching to the crowds (4:42-44) – people were ‘listening to the word of God’ (5:1) – He was preaching to them the kingdom of God – what he said in 4:42
- so He’s setting the stage to TEACH them the truth and to do a series of miracles in these verses and those that follow

Input: Why does Jesus do miracles?

- > to demonstrate His deity – that He is God, Creator, Sovereign over all, Omnipotent, etc.
- he sees Peter and the rest of crew washing their nets – and gets in one of the boats (Peter’s boat) lying at the edge of the lake (Peter joins Jesus in the boat)

II. What did Jesus ask?

A. Take a little step of faith – ‘put out a little way from the land’

- He asks Peter to ‘put out a little way from the land’ –so the crowd could see Him better and He could teach them (imagine that setting – Jesus just off shore, standing in a boat)
- it wasn’t a BIG thing Jesus asked – just ‘a little way from the land’
 - > Point: OK – no big deal – we can that!
- but when Jesus finished teaching – Jesus told Peter to do something else

B. Take a bigger step of faith – “Put out into the deep water“

- no you’re going to have to really trust me, Peter – let’s go, out to the deep water, and ‘*let down your nets for a catch*’ (Jesus even told him WHY – ‘for a catch of fish!’)
- here’s the Lord practicing full disclosure – I’m telling you what to do and WHY I want you to do it!

[Note: It was common knowledge that in the Sea of Galilee, you caught the fish at night in the shallow water, not in the daytime in the deep water]

- but Isaiah 55 explains why we don’t always ‘get it’

[By the way: It’s easy for us to fuss at Peter - -come on dude, what’s wrong with you? Can’t you life by faith and to out to the deep with Jesus – He’s the Creator for crying out loud!]

- **[KJV] Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

* **Point:** Many times God asks us to do the little things first (put out a little way from the land) before He asks us to do something bigger ('put out into the deep water')

III. How did Peter respond? – v. 5

Note: Peter's response to BOTH – he did what was asked of him!

- the first one didn't take much faith, and that may explain why no thoughts were recorded by Luke (Peter just did it)
- but when the 2nd level of commitment was expected – Peter began to reveal what was in his heart

[READ Luke 5:5]

Master = speaks of authority, chief commander, magistrate, governor of a city

Point: Peter was willing to submit to the authority of Christ even though he didn't understand the reason(s) behind all that Christ was doing!

- his way surely hadn't netted them any fish (they 'caught NOTHING')
- but 'I will do as you say and let down the nets'

Q: Is that your heart this morning?

- > perhaps in your marriage so far you think = "I've caught nothing"
- > maybe it's time you said, "I will do as you say" (according to the Word God – I'm going to follow the leadership of Christ – we're going out into the deep to let down the nets!)

IV. What was the **RESULT**?

[READ 5:6 – 'a great quantity of fish and their nets began to break']

- it was so awesome that they had to ask for help – v. 7 – God's grace/blessing!
- but it wasn't about 'the fish' . . . the issue is:

Q: *What did the reveal about our Lord?*

- 1) the glory of Christ – His power, His grace
- 2) the sinfulness/helplessness of man – v. 8 [John 15:5 'without me, you can do nothing']

V. How did Peter respond? – v. 8-9

(1) Response: A right view of the Master:

- 1) Deity
- 2) Sovereign
- 3) Lord over creation! (used the word twice in v. 8)

(2) Response: A right view of himself (how's this for a good self-image?)

"go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord"

Q: What prompted this response?

Reason: He and his friends were amazed because of the catch of fish! – v. 9

- ⇒ **Amazed = as an emotion in which awe and fear are mingled, *astonishment***
- ⇒ **Seized = lit. *encircle, surround*; fig. of unexpected circumstances and emotions *come on* someone**

Q: Are you amazed at what God is doing in your life? Do we really get it? See it? Acknowledge it? What does it take to get your attention?

- * Some people as practically dead in their family life because they do not see the greatness of God (glory of Christ) – they haven't noticed God doing anything that would amaze them
 - > some are too preoccupied with the things of this world or the cares of this life
 - > amazed that somebody would listen to music a little different than they would – or amazed that somebody might dress a little different – or color their hair a little different
- or amazed that someone would be living in such sinful lifestyle
- but they don't see God at work – WHY?

THEY ARE STILL STANDING ON THE BEACH CLEANING THEIR EMPTY NETS . . . UNWILLING TO GET IN THE BOAT WITH JESUS AND 'PUT OUT A LITTLE WAY FROM THE LAND' . . . AND THEY SURE AREN'T GOING TO 'PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP AND LET DOWN THEIR NETS' AND TRUST THE LORD EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN CATCHING NOTHING!

- * Peter was so embarrassed that he said to the Lord, 'go away from me'

VI. The Grace of the Lord – v. 10

Don't be afraid – afraid of what?

- I think he's referring to Peter's response in v. 8 "go away from me Lord"
 - > Jesus was saying in essence, NO WAY – I'm not going anywhere, and you think this is something, I'm going to make you fishers of men
- I'm going to meet you guys where you are and I'm going to turn you into fishers of men
- We're changing gear boys – it's not about FISH (temporal) – it's about MEN (people who are going to live somewhere forever!)
- Jesus kept this promise in two ways:
 - 1) He did 'go away' (back to heaven) – but He sent another 'Comforter' – the Holy Spirit
 - 2) Acts 2 – the Day of Pentecost – [if time, review the message]
 - Result: 3,000 people got saved – HOW ABOUT THAT CATCH! NOT BAD FOR ONE DAY!

VII. Change of Heart—Direction—Ministry – v. 11

'left everything, and followed Him'

- the text doesn't say this, but these men, with the exception of John, they followed Him to their death (Peter for sure was a martyr [John 2:18-19] – James, historically, not in the biblical text, was also a martyr; John was exiled on the island of Patmos – history records that he was boiled in oil]

Q: **What are you ready to 'leave' in order to follow Christ?** Are you Embracing the Adventure?

A Contagious Christian

How Big Is Your God?

Introduction:

I. What was Jesus doing? [Context of this Event]

Input: Why did Jesus do miracles?

II. What did Jesus ask?

A. Take a little step of faith – ‘put out a little way from the land’

B. Take a bigger step of faith – “Put out into the deep water“

III. How did Peter respond? – v. 5

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IV. What was the RESULT?

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