**Trust Jesus**

Based on [Luke 5:1-11](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk5.1-11)

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The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Pastor Nathan Fuehrer

A carpenter was asked by his friend to come over and help him with a project. So he went. The friend gave him specific instructions…”Cut this board this way into this many pieces this size. Place the first piece here, and fasten to the second piece here, with fastener screws here, here, and here.” And so the man instructed his friend (who was a carpenter) to how to build, until finally, the carpenter realized he was building a cover for the man’s air conditioner. The carpenter was insulted. He said “Why didn’t you just tell me you wanted a box for your air conditioner…I could have completed it in half the time, and done a much better job. Instead you insult my expertise.” Clearly he wanted the carpenters labour, but didn’t trust his judgment.

Friends, what if, (figuratively speaking), God wanted you to help build an “air conditioner box,” but he doesn’t tell you that? He only tells us to cut out this board and that board and to assemble it so. And he doesn’t tell you why. And you won’t know what you’re doing for Him until it’s completed…maybe not even then? Would you be insulted? Then you are prideful. You think that your judgment is equal or better than God’s. And you must repent and reevaluate what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

The disciples, (before they were disciples), were fishing all night and catching nothing. In the morning, after they had come to shore, and Jesus tells them to go out and fish some more. Jesus is not a fisherman. He’s a carpenter, but he’s telling fishermen how to fish. And if Peter were prideful, he would have said, “**Hey Jesus, I’m the professional fisherman, not you. I know that the most likely time to catch fish is at night, and to fish this time of day is a fools errand and a waste of time. Who do you think you are, telling a fisherman how to fish?**”

But Peter was humble; he honored Jesus. He calls him Master, and says this same thing, but in this way, “**Master, it doesn’t make sense that, if we didn’t catch fish at prime fishing time, that we should go out now and hope to catch anything…*But at your word I will let down the nets****.*” And so Peter and the other fishermen did; they went out and let down the nets. And to their surprise, they caught so much fish the boat nearly sank!

Their reasoning said, “**I don’t see how this could possibly work out. We’re exhausted, and to fish at the least opportune time is a waste of energy. Our wives are waiting for us at home and they’re already going to be upset that we didn’t catch anything for the market**…If we come home even later we’re never going to hear the end of it. *But, it is better that I suffer scorn from my wife, work my fingers to the bone and my spirit to utter exhaustion, and to do so without seeing any likelihood of reward while following Jesus, than it would be to have a happy wife happy life, dainty hands, and hope of riches--while ignoring Him.*

Friends, remember it is always more reasonable to follow Jesus than to follow your own reason, or your heart, or your mind, or your musings, or your spirit. **If you live life only doing what you think is right, how could you ever be wrong?** The scripture warns of those who “***do what is right in their own eyes.***” If following God is exactly the same thing as following your own understanding; *how have you not made yourself out to be God?* If you figure you can build the “box for the air conditioner” in a way that is better than God instructed, have you not become the wisest being in the universe? Repent, trust the Lord and lean not on your own understanding.

Peter had a realization. When all those fish were piling in, he realized that this Jesus was not only some wise sage sent by God. but that he was standing in the presence of God Himself…in the flesh. And to a man like Peter, a man who knows that he knows nothing compared to the wisdom of the one true God…he crumbled to his knees and said, “**Go away, I am a sinner**.” Far from thinking that God was his equal, Peter knew that he wasn’t worthy to stand before God…but God honored him above all angels by calling him to business of fishing for men.

The central message Jesus says to would be followers is this: “**Take up your cross and follow me**”. St. Paul says he prayed three times for the Lord to remove a thorn, a “messenger of satan” he says, from his side. But God insists you take up your cross, and teaches us that his power is made perfect in weakness. Your cross is to do God’s will without always understanding why. Believing that God is smarter than you is part and parcel of what it means to be Christian and an imitator of Christ who is our example. It is to believe that, when God sends suffering our way…he doesn’t want us to dodge it, but to take it up…trusting that he has a plan and a purpose for your doing so…he’s building a box, as it were, and you are called to trust that he knows what he’s doing better than you do.

Don’t go looking for crosses. Those who search them out oftentimes do so in order to avoid the ones they already have. No, God lays them on you. He gives you crosses in the relationships you already have as husband, wife, son, daughter, pastor, church member, citizen, and worker. “Love your neighbor as yourself”, Jesus says. The word neighbor means “the person near you.” This is your vocation, your calling, your cross...God has given you. God gives everyone three societies: the church, the community, and the family and they are already near you. Love those around you, because they are the crosses God has laid upon you…and never forget that you are the cross He gives them.

And this is not because God likes to see us suffer, but because, though we don’t see how, and he hasn’t even disclosed some lesser purposes of his plan to us, he is working all things—even our suffering, even our crosses, even our bearing of burdens that we could easily cast off—he is working all of these things for his greater purpose, and that is for his glory and for our good.