

Title: Transformational Trust

Text: Luke 5:1-11

Time: 12/4/2011 a.m.

Introduction

1. The current misery rate of 12.58 is the highest it's been since June of 1980 when it was at 21.98; the lowest it has been was in July of 1953 when it was 2.97.
2. The misery index was initiated by economist Arthur Okun, an adviser to President Lyndon Johnson in the 1960's. It is simply the unemployment rate added to the inflation rate. A combination of rising inflation and more people out of work implies deterioration in economic performance and a rise in the misery index.
3. America has been the most prosperous country of the modern era and yet we find ourselves in the midst of despair and uncertainty, what we've counted on in the past is not presently producing.
4. Ravi Zacharias writes, "The loneliest moment in life is when you achieve the ultimate and it lets you down."
5. Our tendency has been to find our significance in success but the problem is found when the things that define our success are temporal and lack the value of the eternal.
6. Peter was a professional fisherman and his office was the Sea of Galilee. On this particular day he had not been successful but Jesus was about to teach Peter a lesson that would transform Peter's life.

1. Listening to the Word of God (5:1)

1. We live in a world that promotes transformation through two basic avenues, affluence and appearance and if you have both this world will treat you with great affection.
2. Listening to the world will put us on a treadmill that ask for constant movement and will enable us to walk longer but not further, it is the proverbial picture of "chasing the carrot."
3. God's word takes our minds away from the focus of the temporal so that the eternal takes precedence. God's Word is the "Living Word;" it is the active word that trains us to discern and decide that which is good and pleasing (Heb 4:12).

2. He Identified with Christ (5:2-3)

1. When Jesus stepped into Simon Peter's boat the transformation took another progression. Peter was now identified as being with Jesus.
2. When we begin to identify with Christ He begins to position us for His purpose, "put out a little way from the land."
3. At this point, Peter seems to be comfortable and compliant with the things that Jesus has asked of him, he wants to hear Jesus speak like everybody else and having a front row seat makes it even better.
4. Most of us wouldn't have a problem surrendering our boat to be used for a floating stage, there's no risk and you weren't using it for anything anyway.

5. We usually don't have a problem with the convenient calls of Christ the things that require no real effort or sacrifice and keep us close to the shore and in touch with the crowd.

6. In verse 4, Jesus is going to push the transformation to a defining moment when He stops speaking and challenges Peter to start doing.

3. Go to the Deep Water

1. It is here that some may see Jesus as a threat because to do what He says means that He has gone from passenger to Captain. It is here that Peter deals with two critical issues in the transformation process.

- **Submission** which means to willingly yield to governance or authority.
- **Stewardship** which means transferring ownership and becoming the manager.

2. The only reason Peter does what he does is because Jesus asked him; therefore he is acting to only please Jesus.

3. The nets here symbolize our talents, abilities, and gifts and Peter has surrendered the use of them to Jesus.

4. There are a couple of observations to make here;

- Jesus didn't ask Peter to do anything that he wasn't gifted or able to. He didn't ask him to be better than anybody else. He asked him to use the gifts and abilities he had to the greatest extent he could.
- When Jesus is the Captain of the boat, the deep is not a risk.

4. Jesus is the Author of Success (5:6-7)

1. I will always be more productive in submission to Jesus than I will be in search of my own pleasure.

Conclusion (5:8-11)

1. In these final verses I find something rather amazing. We are never told how many fish were caught.

2. Beware the "Bonfire of insignificance" **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

3. Two things remain in Heaven, the Word of God and Redeemed humanity.

4. Peter transformed in such a way that he left his worldly success to pursue eternal significance. Heaven doesn't record the number of fish he caught that day but it does record the number who came to Christ at Pentecost.