

# The Cost of Following Christ

*Adapted from Pastor Andy Stanley*

Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

**Today, I want to talk about something that's really a life message for me. It's something that I come back to over and over and over in my Christian life: Salvation is free, but following Christ costs me something.**

I am not sure that is what I signed up for

-I wanted heaven, forgiveness, healing, peace-- I liked all that

-But following Christ -- it is hard/difficult/it costs me something

-Not just believing...but following

-God asks something of us when we follow --ALOT OF SOMETHINGS

-Go

-Give

-Change

-Grow

God wants to control our whole lives.

-Your morality

-Your career

-Your entertainment

-Your money

-What you choose to do with your life!

***What he wants is found in one word -- SURRENDER!***

We are not very comfortable with giving up control because we are AFRAID and unsure about this idea of SURRENDER

***News flash:*** God doesn't have to wait for us to surrender something to Him....  
He can take it from us without our permission.

-The older you get, the greater the stakes for surrendering everything to God.

-Young people think--I don't own much to surrender (playstation, IPOD, cell phone)

**We think the issue is the VALUE of what we are HOLDING ON TO.**

## Look at this passage in Luke 5:1-11

- Gospels are made up of two eyewitnesses and two interviews
- Luke is an interviewer

1One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

6When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7So 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.

8When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10and 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 catch men." 11So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

## LUKE 5:1-3

1One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

- Jesus asks Peter for the use of his boat.
- Fisherman like Peter fished all night...it was cool and the fish came to the top to feed
- They fished with nets
- After fishing...they cleaned their nets and then set them out to dry and went home to rest until the next night
- Peter is now in the boat with Jesus---He probably wished he would have thought that one through--he is stuck listening to a sermon

Then, Jesus asks Peter to go fishing

## LUKE 5:4

4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

- Go fishing?
- Nobody fishes during the day!
- It takes hours to clean these nets!
- We are tired from fishing all night

## THIS LIFE IS GOING TO COST YOU SOMETHING

Like Peter, we try to give God information when He asks us to do something we don't want to do.

- What will others think?
- This is hard
- Excuses

## LUKE 5:5

5Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

- We have worked hard all night
- We are professionals and we have caught ZILCH!
- This doesn't make any sense
- It will cost me my reputation, time, money, \_\_\_\_\_(insert)

Surrender this

Do this

Pursue that

Leave that

Example: Ask a volunteer with some valuable things

- "I promise that you'll be better off when you sit down than when you came up here"
- "Whatever you give me...you give me full ownership"
- Eventually God comes around something that you place value on

And...You lose sight of the promise

- Yes...it makes following Christ...at best
- The Issue: CAN GOD BE TRUSTED!**
- GIVE out \$20

"If I needed another volunteer--how hard would it be to find one?"

The Bible is a testimony of all the good things God has done through people who surrendered to Him.

-The issue is not the value of *what* I'm holding. The issue is "*Who* is asking me to open my hand?"

-The Bible is also a history of people who thought the value of what was in their hand was more important than their relationship with God.

### **LUKE 5:5b**

"...But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Like Peter, we wrestle with God but eventually say, "Because you say so..."

**THIS IS THE ESSENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE!!**

### **LUKE 5:6-7**

6When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7So 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.

**After this huge catch, Simon said "Wow, look at all the fish we have caught...we won't have to fish for the rest of the week!"**

NO...look at his response in verse 8

### **LUKE 5:8**

8When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

After Peter saw the miracle, he suddenly recognized he was in the presence of the Christ (Luke 5:8).

-The fish just became **IRRELEVANT** to him

-Don't miss what God has for you because you're unwilling to surrender

-Jesus went from being (Jesus, a good teacher) to (Jesus, **MY LORD!**)

He nearly missed an opportunity for Jesus to come alive in his life

### **LUKE 5:9-11**

9For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10and 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 catch men."

-Jesus tells the fishermen to follow Him, so that now, they will be fishers of men (Luke 5:9-11).

-Catch men... what in the world is He talking about?

### **LUKE 5:11**

11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

-Left everything

-Week's worth of fish...their livelihood

-What about the fish? They are irrelevant

God: "I don't care about your stuff"

"I want your undivided attention"

"I want to blow your faith in me up so big!"

God wants to increase our confidence and faith in Him.

"Do you trust me?"

"I'm not telling you what is on the other side of this decision---You have no idea of what I want to do through you!!"

"Do you trust me?"

**Dr. Charles Stanley has a plaque in his office that says: "God takes full responsibility for the life that is totally yielded to Him."**

**Closed fist = You are responsible**

**Openly surrendered life = God is responsible**

***Could it be that the greatest potential for growth doesn't lie in another bible study, worship service, or mission trip...but it lies in what you have placed in your closed fist.***

### **Conclusion**

Surrendering to God isn't about fish, rings, dollar bills, businesses, jobs, or relationships. It's about having peace—knowing you are right where God wants you and doing what He wants you to do.

***Salvation is free...costs you nothing. Following Christ will cost you something...but refusing to follow Him...will cost you a whole lot more.***