

[Harmony of the Gospels](#)
Part 19
“Never The Less Lord, At Your Word”

How deep is your commitment to Jesus?

When it is tested under fire, will you buckle and compromise your walk?

A father recalls the story of his son Jason.

“My son Jason’s successes have come mainly in baseball.

The Most notable of which occurred in a single moment last summer.

In the last three years, I doubt that Jason has ever gotten an hit and taken the field.

Jason is a 7th grader and is just 4 foot 9 inches tall.

Last summer his lack of height was more than noticeable because he was a 7th grader playing in an 7th and 8th grade league.

A pitcher fired a fastball right down the middle, I’m not sure if Jason even saw the ball, “**Strike One.**”

The second pitch scorched across the plate for “**Strike Two.**”

The third pitch, unintentionally I am sure, came right at Jason. He turned to avoid being hit and fell immediately to the ground.

His helmet bounced off, the ball seemed to have skimmed his shoulder...

“**Take your base**”, said the umpire.

I was standing in the third bas coaches box and I was just happy to see Jason alive much less getting a free base...

I could see Jason saying something to the umpire...“**It didn’t hit me...**” Jason said to the Ump.

“**Take your base son**”, the umpire said...

Our fans were most likely thinking the same thing, ***“Take your base son, you’ve been wounded soldier, your wars over, Your going home.”***

“But honest Ump, it didn’t hit me”, Jason pleaded...

The umpire looked at Jason and then looked out to the infield umpire and just shrugged his shoulders.

“Ok” said the umpire, ***“The count is one and two.”***

I wondered if I should intervene and make him take his base,. Jason was already digging his cleats into the batters box.

The towering pitcher rocked backwards and fired another fastball right down the middle, the kind of pitch that would send any kid to the dugout.

Instead, Jason ripped the ball into left center for a stand-up double.

The crowd roared, the manager of the team was standing a few feet behind me, he didn’t know that Jason was my son...

He spit out his sunflower seeds and solely shook his head... ***“Man, you gotta love that...”***

If you have ever been placed in a situation where your faith is tested and you have failed miserably, then this story really hits home.

- ☞ **For it is in those moments** when things are going wrong in our life, or we are having the hardest time with some issue in our life, that it is the hardest to consistently be faithful to Jesus and be obedient to Him.
- ☞ **Many times we fall right on our faces** and have to come back to the Lord later and say “Lord I am so sorry, I don’t know what I was thinking...”

Peter was one of those guys that was really good at talking a good story, but when it came time to actually doing what he claimed he would do, he failed miserably.

- ☞ **I suppose** that is why Jesus chose Peter, because when you and I look at him and see the dumb things that he does, it really encourages us.

“If Jesus can love and be patient with a guy like Peter, then maybe He really does love me, and will endure all the stupid things I say and do!”

In our last study in the “harmony of the Gospels”, we looked at Matthew chapter 4, where Jesus called a couple of fishermen to come and follow Him...

[Matthew 4:19-22](#)

19 Then Jesus said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

20 **They immediately left their nets** and followed Him.

21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them,
22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

Notice that when James and John hear Jesus call to them to come and follow Him, there is no hesitation, they immediately drop what they are doing, come and follow Jesus.

- ☞ **An immediate response** when Jesus calls a person to follow him is an indication of their sincerity in believing the truth about who Jesus is.
- ☞ **Peter and Andrew** were completely “**Sold out**” they left their fishing nets right where they were they turned their back on their old life and started their new life in Jesus as not only “new creations” but also instruments to lead others into a brand new life.
- ☞ **Following Jesus** into eternal life always **requires leaving our old life** and completely surrendering to following him but if we make the commitment to follow him and determine to leave the old life the wonderful news is that he will give us the power to do it!

SOLD OUT!!

In Luke 5:10 we see the same story with the addition by Luke that James and John are “**Partners**” with Peter in their fishing business.

Luke 5:10

and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”

These guys are all interconnected with each other.

- ☞ **When Jesus comes into your life**, it is not just for you only, but he really wants to effect all of the other people that are in your life too.

John also has met Jesus before when he and Andrew were following John the Baptist.

- ☞ **You will notice** that James is always listed first when describing the brothers James and John because James was the older brother.
- ☞ **James and John** also go with Jesus as soon as they are called by him.

The beauty of studying all 4 gospels at the same time is that we see here in Mark 1:20 that you will see an additional detail, James and John did not leave their father Zebedee alone in this fishing business, they had hired servants to help their father with the fishing business.

Mark 1:16-20

16 And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen.

17 Then Jesus said to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

18 And immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

19 When He had gone a little farther from there, He saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the boat mending their nets.

20 And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat **with the hired servants**, and went after Him.

Then also in Luke 5:1-11, we learn even more details:

- ☞ Luke, the doctor, always puts much more detail into his account, because he was a historian and not just a story teller.

Luke 5

1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,

- ☞ **Here we see** that there was also a large group of people that followed Jesus as he went to find Peter and Andrew.

Luke 5

2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And **He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.**

- ☞ **There were so many people** that Jesus had to go out into a boat in the lake to be able to teach them.
- ☞ **Luke includes this account** of how Jesus took the time to minister to the people as he was going to call Peter, Andrew, James and John.

Jesus always had time for people. He always has time for you, he is never too busy to just sit down with you and talk, or hold you when you are going through a difficult time.

- ☞ **The other gospel writers** did not include that when Jesus was beginning to call the men that would follow Him, He took time also for the people.
- ☞ **Now in the next few verses**, after Jesus had taught the crowds of people, He continues to call Peter and Andrew:

Luke 5

4 **When He had stopped speaking**, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."

Now try to imagine for yourself, what you would feel like:

- ☞ **Your entire living** comes from going out into a boat and fishing.
- ☞ **You have been out all night** and not caught a single fish.
- ☞ **It is now sun up**, you are tired, hungry, discouraged, and angry.
- ☞ **You get to the shore**, and this long haired guy comes up to you and says “Go back out into the lake Peter, and try one more time...”

What would you feel inside, what would you say?

- ☞ **But this story** really illustrates for us how our own life really is.
- ☞ **We are all just trying** to do the best that we can.
- ☞ **Many times** it is in our own strength, and our own understanding.
- ☞ **Then we hear Jesus** tell us, “*Do this way...*”

“But Lord I have already tried everything...that is not going to work..”

The way that Jesus does things in our life, does not always make sense to us...

- ☞ **But that is because** He is God, and your not.
- ☞ **That is because Jesus** can see what is going to happen in the future in your life and you cannot.
- ☞ **That is because Jesus loves you** and always has your best interest in mind.

Jesus is not as interested in your comfort as much as he is interested in your Character.

- ☞ **Character Is built** by trials and difficulties, waiting and failing.

And we fight against Him so many times...

Most of us that claim that we know Jesus, we say that He is our “Lord and our Savior”.

- ☞ **Now the Savior part** is pretty easy for most of us, I give all of my failures and sins to Jesus and He cleanses me of them and makes it as if I had never sinned.
- ☞ **He give me eternal life** at the moment I believe that He died for me and was raised from the dead, and ask Him to save me.
- ☞ **I exchange all of my ugliness**, for all of Jesus beauty, pretty good deal...

On the other hand, making Jesus Lord of our life, is and entirely different matter altogether.

- ☞ **The word Lord**, is in the Greek language “*Kurios*”.
- ☞ **It means “Master”**, or in today’s language, “**He is the Boss**”.
- ☞ **When you accepted Jesus** as Lord of your life, did you understand what you were doing?

[Galatians 2:20](#)

I have been crucified with Christ; **it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

What happens to a person when they are Crucified?

- ☞ **They die.**
- ☞ **In fact** that is what Paul describes here in Galatians 2: “I no longer live, but now it is Jesus living through me....Really!

Now wait a minute, if I am dead, they why do I still get mad when someone hurts my feelings.

- ☞ **If I am truly dead**, the what people say and do to me, shouldn't faze me.
- ☞ **Someone who is already dead** is not effected by what other people say or do.

Ah, there is the answer, **I am not yet dead to myself**, I am holding on to my pride, my rights and privileges, “*Hey you cant do that to me...*”

- ☞ **Really**, they cant do that to you...why is that?
- ☞ **Slaves don't have any rights**, they never say, “Hey you cant do that to me”.
- ☞ **You are supposed to be dead**, so why does it bother you?
- ☞ **It bothers you** because **your life is not totally surrendered to Jesus as Lord** of your life.

[1 Corinthians 4:3-4](#)

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself.

4 For I know of nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but **He who judges me is the Lord**

[Romans 14:4](#)

Who are you to judge another's servant? **To his own master he stands or falls**. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

If you have a proper understanding of the relationship between a master and a servant, then you cannot be effected by what people say or do to you.

“To your own master Jesus, you either stand or fall...” **Not by what everyone else says or does, do you stand or fall.**

[1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#)

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and **you are not your own**?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Listen, You don't belong to yourself anymore!

- ☞ **You were purchased** at the slave market by Jesus Christ.
- ☞ **You were sold** into the slavery of your own sin, and there was no hope of you ever being redeemed, you were hopelessly lost.
- ☞ **Then Jesus came** and paid the price that was owed by you for your slavery to sin and He died in your place.
- ☞ **So now**, *"You have been bought with a price, your life is no longer your own..."*

Then why do we still act like we own our life?

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

The most costly thing in the Universe is the life of Jesus Christ, because the Bible says that He is the Creator or Author of all life.

- ☞ **So what was the price** that was paid for your life?
- ☞ **The most costliest** life that will ever exist.
- ☞ **The creator** of the Universe died for you.
- ☞ **You were purchased** at a high cost.
- ☞ **Therefore You do not** have any more claim on your life.

You have no right to complain, everything you need or have is by the Lord hands.

- ☞ **If you don't have it** right now, you don't need it.
- ☞ **Or maybe you are not ready** yet to receive it, so you will have to wait a little while longer.
- ☞ **You might cry out** to the Lord, *"Lord I need this right now..."*
- ☞ **And He looks deep into your heart** and says: *"Rob if I gave to you right now what you are asking for, it would destroy you, or at the least, make you fall away from me..."*

Some of us, the Lord has given to us things we asked Him for, and now that we have it, we are not serving Him the way we did before He gave it to us...

So here is Peter, he has fished all night, caught nothing, he is tired and hungry and frustrated, and when does Jesus come to Him to teach Peter, When Peter is struggling the most!

- ☞ **Did you** hear that?
- ☞ **Jesus comes to you** when you are having the hardest time, and He says to you "Listen Up".

- ☞ **Jesus comes** to teach us when things are not going very good...

Matthew 4

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

Peter has tried it his way, and Peter knows how to fish, he is a professional fisherman.

- ☞ **Maybe you know how** to do certain things, you have learned how to do them well.
- ☞ **Maybe in the past** you have been a successful person.
- ☞ **Maybe a good husband** or wife or mother or father.
- ☞ **Maybe you have learned** how to live life by experience...

But your way, and all of you wisdom and understanding, are not Gods way.

- ☞ **In your best attempts** and in your most excellent wisdom, you will never be as smart as the Lord.
- ☞ **And you don't even know** what is going to happen in your life 5 minutes from now.
- ☞ **But He does.**

How about we just surrender all the parts of our life to Jesus Lordship and control and see how much better He can run our lives that we can..?

- ☞ **No matter how hard headed** and self willed Peter is, not matter how much Peter thinks that he knows about fishing, when Jesus says go back out, Peter goes back out.
- ☞ **But notice** that on the way out, he whines a little.
- ☞ **Do you do that,** "I'll do it Lord, but...whine whine whine... all the while we are doing it.

"Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless (Whine whine whine...) If you say so... at Your word I will let down the net."

Matthew 4

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink

At first they doubted that the Lord could really help in their situation, because they had already tried.

- ☞ **Then Peter whined about it,** even as he was going to do what the Lord said to do.
- ☞ **AS Peter is doing** what Jesus told him to do, then all of his needs were met.
- ☞ **And notice** that Peter and the others were not really ready for how greatly the Lord would work in their lives.

Their nets were breaking, their boat was sinking...you see they weren't really ready for what Jesus wanted to do...

- ☞ **Gang, I know** that you need the Lord to do something in your life.
- ☞ **You cry out to Him** all of the time.
- ☞ **But has He prepared you enough yet** for what you are asking Him to do?
- ☞ **You think** you are ready, but you are not ready!
- ☞ **Sometimes there is a period of time** where we just have to be patient and wait on the Lord.
- ☞ **It is in that time** of waiting that the Lord works in us to prepare us for what we have asked Him to do.

Tell the story of Melinda and I

I have to wait for 7 months...

Matthew 4

8 **When Simon Peter saw it**, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;
10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, **who were partners with Simon**. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

When Peter saw what Jesus had done, it wiped him out...

- ☞ **When the Lord finally does** what you need Him to do, it will be overwhelming, it will be so wonderful.
- ☞ **But in the meantime**, while we are waiting for Him, let us not lose our confidence in Him.
- ☞ **And let us not think** that because the Lord has delayed his answer to the prayer we need answered, that He doesn't care or has forgotten about us.

He is working...He is working inside of you right now to prepare you for what you asked Him to do...

- ☞ **Jesus had known** from the foundation of the world that Peter, Andrew, James and John would follow Jesus and become his disciples.
- ☞ **He knew exactly** what it was that these men needed in a real and practical way in their lives that would demonstrate once and for all that Jesus was their savior and Lord.

Hold fast your confidence in the Lord right now while you are waiting for him, and even though He might be asking you to do some things that don't make sense to you...tell Him what Peter told Him... *"Never the less Lord, even though I don't understand, at your word...I will do it..."*