

Man-Centered Plans Vs. God-Centered Activity - Luke 5:1-11

Do you remember going on road trips with an atlas... triptik... Mapquest...?

We no longer need these b/c we now have a GPS right in the car with us!

We don't need a mapped-out path to our destination, b/c we have step-by-step instructions provided for us through our Global Positioning System.

Without a GPS I would be so lost! I have learned to trust that voice even when I think I know better - she has proven that she knows better than I do!

Isn't this also true with God? God knows far better than we do what direction we need to go! God's plotted course for our lives can be trusted far beyond the roads we would choose ourselves if we were in charge of our own navigation!

God is like a GPS for our lives, we don't need to see the whole big picture (the whole route) laid out in front of us, we simply need to trust God's presence w/ us, & the step-by-step instructions that He gives along the way!

God is active in His creation, active in our lives! God has a plan/purpose in which He is bringing all things in conformity to. Do we trust Him?

Do we trust Him enough to not need to see the route that He is taking us on from a bird's eye view, but trust His "In 500 feet turn right" instructions?

We often live our lives fighting for control – we want the power to direct our own lives wherever it is that we want to go - Man-centered plans.

We often want God in the mix, especially His blessings upon our self-made plans, but if we are honest, we want God to align Himself to our plans, more than we want to trust Him and align ourselves to His! Ex: Prayer

In response to this, you may have heard it said "Let God be in the driver's seat of your life!" But if that's the answer, you can just crawl in the backseat, take a nap, disengage, & far remove yourself from God & His direction for your life!

I believe God wants us in the driver's seat of our own lives, but He also wants us to accept Him as our GPS & respond w/ obedience to His direction!

If we are in the driver's seat, w/God present directing us with daily step-by-step instructions, we will experience God & His activity in a profound new way!

Man-centered plans Vs. God-centered activity! "Experiencing God" pg 32-33

God doesn't want to be fitted to our plans for our own lives, He wants us to invite Him to direct our lives, and place ourselves in the midst of His activity!

In Luke 5:1-11, we see a great example of this God-centered activity in Simon's life! It starts w/ Jesus, stepping on to Simon's boat & into his life!

Vs. 3 – "Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he (Jesus) asked him to put out a little from the land." Who's in the driver's seat? Simon

Jesus could've said, "Give me your boat & watch what I do", but instead He asks Simon to man the boat & be present in the midst of what He was about to do!

It's interesting that in this encounter, the activity of God in Simon's life didn't come through Jesus' sermon on the boat, it came while fishing!

Fishing was Simon's life, his livelihood, it's what he knew and it was what his future held for him, as far as he was concerned!

But his man-centered plans were altered by an openness to God-centered activity in his life! Consider how this could have played out differently:

Simon could have easily said, "I don't have time for this Jesus, I'm working and I need to prepare for tonight's fishing trip", but he didn't. He made his boat available, & he even manned the boat according to Jesus' request!

After Jesus was done teaching vs. 4 says that he told Simon to **"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."** Simon could have easily said, "Jesus, my plan is to go fishing later tonight, when there are fish to catch!" But instead Simon said, **"Master, we toiled all night & took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."** Again man-centered Vs. God-centered activity

Simon, the boat's captain, calls Jesus **"Master"** and he responds to Jesus' command. Simon was in the captain's chair, but he let Jesus be his GPS!

The result is a massive catch of fish, that could have only been the result of God's activity in his midst! Simon's response could have been, "I have to get Jesus to be a part of my crew so that we can catch fish like this every day!"

Instead he acknowledges God's activity & he leaves everything behind to follow Jesus! What about the fish? – His Man-centered plans were abandoned & replaced w/ joining Jesus in God's activity, & becoming a "fisher of men"! What did that even mean? Simon would figure it out under the direction of his GPS!

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