



TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of DISCIPLE, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Community Group Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Pastor Doug noted that we have been given a mission. Read 1 Corinthians 3:9 and 1 Thessalonians 3:2.
Whose "fellow workers" are we? What does this tell you **about God?** **About us?**

Who is the **most famous person in the world** who shares your same occupation or role in life?
How would you **feel** if he/she asked you to be **their** "fellow worker"? Would you say yes?

How do you feel about God calling **you** to be his fellow worker in ministry? Have you said "yes"?

- Tell about a time when you served someone less fortunate, someone "on the margins of society".
Reflecting on that experience, how did you observe Acts 20:35 prove true in your life?
- Tell about a time when, because someone knew you were a Christian, you were more ethical or hard-working.
What did you learn from that? How did it impact your witness? Has your witness continued to improve?
- Read Isaiah 6:5 and Job 42:5–6. Have you ever felt that way in the presence of God, your fellow-worker?
Why or why not? What do you think it would take in order for you to grow in that response?

Pastor Doug noted that most people are not called to walk away from their occupations in order to serve God.

Read Luke 9:23. **To whom** was it written?

What might that look like in **your** life?

Application-Challenge

- Jesus calls us to apply our faith to our work. Does anyone in your workplace, school, or neighborhood know that you follow Christ?
- Jesus calls us to reach out to the marginalized. To whom can you show compassion this week?
- Jesus models the importance of prayer. At tcc.org, drop down the **Grow** tab, and click on **Prayer**. Select one of the opportunities found there.



Sermon Summary (Key Text: Luke 5:4–16)

In Luke's gospel we're looking at the resources Christianity gives us to live in a very hard-to-live-in world. They're often called "means of grace" because God typically works through various means in order to bring his life-changing grace to our lives. Today we'll consider how living out our God-given mission grows us into his image.

1. Jesus calls us to apply our faith to our work (v. 4-11). Peter, a professional fisherman, was very skeptical when Jesus advised him on how to fish. But he complied—and pulled in a miraculous catch! When Peter realized what Jesus had done, he fell down and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" Jesus responded: "Don't be afraid; from now on, you'll be fishing for people!" Jesus called these fishermen to follow him in discipleship, and astonishingly, "They left everything and followed him." When a person really encounters Jesus they experience a disorienting identity crisis (Isaiah 6:5; Job 42:5–6). Why? Because no matter how good you are at something, when you encounter God—who's obviously a lot better than you—it's disorienting. But in response to Peter's acknowledgment of this sin, Jesus graciously invited Peter to be his fishing partner! Note that Jesus doesn't wall-off our faith from our vocational lives. Jesus brings the spiritual dimension to our work, and as a result, gives us a radical new identity that changes our attitudes on everything. Unlike Peter, Jesus doesn't call most people to leave their occupations, but he always becomes our ultimate employer. Every aspect of your attitude toward your job changes: you become more ethical, profit and success aren't nearly as crucial as they once were, you become a better employee. Now your goal is to please God in all that you do.

2. Jesus calls us to reach out to the marginalized of society (v. 12-15). In those days, when someone was stricken with leprosy there was a great deal of social stigma and isolation that went along with their disease. Lepers were sent away from society. On top of everything else, they felt spiritually cursed, cut off from God! The leper Jesus encountered didn't demand to be healed; rather he said: "If you are willing ..." In his request there is hope, humility, trust and respect. And notice what Jesus does: he doesn't just heal him from a distance, he touched him. It's quite probable that this man hasn't been touched by another human for a long, long time. He was healed physically and emotionally, and brought back into community. Luke is constantly recording Jesus' dealings with "social outcasts"—with lepers, tax collectors, prostitutes and the demon-possessed. Jesus was drawn to people on the margins of society, those considered "losers". How do you view such people? Do you have compassion towards them? I'm not just talking about the homeless and poor, but also the socially awkward. Will you make time for them, help draw them into community, and point them to the Savior who can make them clean, both physically and spiritually? In cleansing the leper, Jesus is saying, "I don't care how soiled and defiled you are, I don't care what you've done. If I touch you, you become clean. Though your sins be as scarlet, they will be whiter than snow!" Jesus can do this because he is God (John 3:16; Hebrews 1:3), and he commissions us to reach out to others (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

3. Jesus models for us the critical role prayer must play in carrying out our mission (v. 15-16). As Jesus' popularity grew, so did the demands on his time and energy. How did he recharge? Through prayer. If Jesus, the powerful Son of God, felt the need to pray in order to fulfill his mission, how great must our need be? Jesus often slipped away to pray—do we? Jesus said, "Apart from me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Our need for God is total, not partial. John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in response to prayer," and then he backed up his conviction by spending two hours daily on his knees. For you, is prayer a nice thing, or a vital thing? Be honest. We are ambassadors for Christ; could prayerlessness explain our lack of fruitfulness? God has given us a mission in the world, and prayer is critical to our relationship with God and to the fulfillment of our mission. Church, let's make it a habit often to slip away to pray.

Talking To God About This Week's Message

"Heavenly Father, today I want to be a 'doer' of the Word, and not just a 'hearer'. Amen."

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"Five Question Bible Study" (see page below) *is a simple way to study any passage.*

We can use it to learn how to pray with power...

Monday—Read Luke 11:1–2a. Do you need to learn to pray? Who will you ask to teach you?

Tuesday—Read Luke 11:2b-4. List all the things Jesus told us to request. Ask God for that now.

Wednesday—Read Luke 11:5-8. The word translated "boldness" or "persistence" (v. 8) literally means "shamelessness". Are you shamelessly bold and persistent in prayer?

Thursday—Read Luke 11:9-10. Do you keep on asking, seeking, and knocking in prayer?

Friday—Read Luke 11:11-13. Do you view the Holy Spirit as the best thing God could have given you?

Saturday—***In preparation for worshipping your risen Lord with your church family,***
read **Luke 19:28-40.**

Bible Text: _____

Date: _____



What idea particularly strikes me from this text? [Note in which verse(s) it is found.]



What question does this text raise in my mind—and how would ***this text*** answer it?



What about Jesus Christ—his character and/or his redemption—relates to this text?



What action must I take as a result of this text? Be concrete and specific.



With whom will I share what I learned from this text? [and what was their response?]