

Long Story Short: The Call of Jesus on My Life

Reflect

1. Have you ever defended yourself when you felt misunderstood? How did the other person(s) respond? What usually gets you defensive?
2. When was the last time you confessed sin (in private prayer or with another person)? What drove you to it? What was the result?
3. Do you think you are useful to God? How do you generally think He sees you?

Read Your Bible

Luke 5:1-11

Isaiah 6:1-8

Apply God's Word to Your Life

1. What is similar in both Bible readings? Can you spot a pattern of events?
2. God reveals Himself throughout Scripture. When He does so powerfully, the human reaction is often one of awe and unworthiness. How might this relate to the Christian practice of confession? What drives confession?
3. What surprises you about God's response to confession in both these Scriptures? What doesn't surprise you? What does God say He is faithful to do (1 John 1:9)?
4. Isaiah learned that he would be sent with a message from God. Peter was told that he would now begin to "fish for people." What did Jesus mean? When God shows us who He is, what does He commission us to do in response?
5. When God reveals Himself, confession is an appropriate reaction. But what are you learning from these Scriptures about how God views His people? When He forgives us our sin, how does He see us? Outcasts or family? Unworthy or worthy?

We can often be defensive when confronted with our shortcomings. But confession is a basic part of the relationship to God. It comes in response to the revelation of who God is: holy, awesome, just, and always good. This can be terrifying and may rightfully drive sinners to their knees. Yet, He replaces our unworthiness with immense worth and purpose. When Jesus revealed Himself to Peter, the fisherman wanted to escape! He was terrified because his own sinful heart would now be revealed. But his Lord didn't skip a beat. He lifted him up in faith and revealed to him a new purpose in the world. This call on our lives is both terrible and terrific. When we come face to face with Jesus we are compelled to fall on our knees in fear of who we are, but then we can stand again in confidence at the way He sees us. The love in His eyes melts the heart of fear and sets our feet on solid ground, ready to carry His message! Have you experienced this in your walk with God?

Pray

Holy God and Father, we ask You to reveal Yourself to us again today. Open our hearts before You as we bow our heads in confession. Some days we are terrified by what You find in us. But You are not! Lift us to our feet and set our hearts on fire. Let our courage flow from the love we see in Your eyes. Here I am, Lord! Send me! For the sake of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.