

Stretched Thin: Close the Gap

Life Steps | September 10 & 11, 2016

Memory Verse: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
- **James 1:2-4**

Monday

Mark 1:16-20; Memory Verse

What would you do if someone told you "to fish for people"? What priority did James and John place on fishing versus relating with Jesus? Describe the difficulty of walking away from everything today. What is God calling you to walk away from in order to walk toward him?

Tuesday

Luke 5:1-11

Simon made his boat available. What resources have you released to Jesus when asked? How did sharing resources affect each person in this account? What would Simon have missed if he had disobeyed? Pray about how you personally share your resources.

Wednesday

Review Luke 5:1-11; Memory Verse

Describe when you've responded like Simon, with a whiny complaint, to a Jesus call? Did Jesus withhold relationship from Simon because of his attitude? How is Jesus' response contrary to your nature? After the catch, Simon confessed. Do you confess a wrong attitude as quickly?

Thursday

Numbers 20:1-13

What factors distracted Moses and Aaron to the point of disobedience? How was this disobedience distrustful of God's instructions? How was God dishonored in their words and actions? When/How have you embellished a God calling to feel more secure?

Friday

Luke 10:38-42; Memory Verse

Hospitality is a spiritual gift, so why was Martha's complaint rebuked? How should hospitality enhance relationships? How can you rethink your common cultural hospitality practices to sync with God's relationship priority? Pray about aligning your hospitality expectations with God's.

Saturday

John 11:1-44 (review Friday's Life Step Responses)

How did Martha's focus change upon this next meeting with Jesus? How did Martha demonstrate Jesus' faith priority? How did Jesus' delay reveal that God's priorities are better than human plans? What are you anxiously planning rather than discerning God's priority?

Sunday Review Luke 5:1-11; Numbers 20:1-13; Luke 10:38-42; Memory Verse

Reconsider your current priorities. Where do you feel lacking in connection with God and others? What insights did you gain from the scriptures this week? What priority is the Holy Spirit calling you toward today?