

June 21 / Sunday

Basketball: Nothing but Net

Read [Luke 5:1-11](#)



22 / Mon – You want me to do WHAT to score? | Read [Luke 5:1-7](#)

Simon was a professional fisherman in his father's commercial fishing business. He *knew* fishing, so he was probably taken aback when a religious teacher told him something so silly, it seemed like a joke. Has that happened to you? Do you remember a time when you knew God wanted you to take an action which did not seem to make much sense at the time? If you obeyed, how did it turn out? If you did not, do you wish you had?

23 / Tue – Who recruited you? | Read [Matthew 4:18-22](#) / [Mark 2:13-14](#) / [John 1:43-49](#)

Read these accounts of seven of the 12 men Jesus called to follow him. Each immediately dropped whatever they were doing and went with him. It seems odd. Typically a Jewish man would choose a rabbi he admired and then go through a rigorous application process to be accepted as one of his disciples. But Jesus recruited his own. These seven would not normally have qualified but it was his calling that made them worthy. How do you silence doubts about your value to God?

24 / Wed – What holds you back? | Read [Mark 10:20-22](#) / [Luke 9:57-62](#)

Not everyone Jesus called to follow him did so. Often it was because they might have to give up something that was of greater value to them. For one it was his financially comfortable life, for another it was the inheritance he might lose if he left while his father was still alive, and another was too attached to his family, maybe in an unhealthy way. What keeps you from following Jesus more consistently? Everyone may not understand your choices but are you willing?

25 / Thu – Are you focusing on the right goal? | Read [Mark 8:34-37](#)

One thing that is required to follow Jesus is a willingness to 'crucify' your self-centered desires. When you thoughtfully examine the things that clamor for your attention and resources, how many of them seem more for self-gratification? Every athlete or competitor knows there are things you have to give up in order to gain something of greater value. When you experience the reward of a richer fellowship with Jesus, the things you 'give up' will seem cheap and unrewarding.

26 / Fri – Who is your coach? | Read [John 10:1-5](#), [27-30](#)

To follow someone on social media means to check in frequently to read what they are saying or doing. You also see what they value and it often exposes you to new ways of thinking that might affect your perspective, hopefully in a positive way. What about someone who 'follows' *Jesus*? Could those same things apply? Jesus said his 'sheep' know his voice because they have heard it so often. How can you check in to see what Jesus is saying and what he values?

27 / Sat – Hero worship | Read [1 Corinthians 11:1](#)

Someone is watching. It might be your neighbor, a co-worker, your children, or an extended family member. They see you in everyday life. They notice what you do or say and *how* you speak and act. Little kids may see you as a role model. Does that scare you? It might because who you *are* and what you *do* reflects on Jesus. Will those watching from the sidelines be drawn to him or pushed away from him? Keep your eyes on Jesus and you won't have to worry about the spectators.