

SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 20:1-17 & Luke 5:1-11

SINGING: 265:1-3 – 140:1, 4 – 337:1-4 – 103:1-4 – 189:1-4

EXTRA READING: First half of Lord's Supper Form (pg. 136)

<p>SAVING GRACE ACQUAINTS WITH GOD AND WORKS CONVERSION OF OUR THOUGHTS AND WALK OF LIFE</p>

I. Saving Acquaintance with God is gift of Grace

A. Simon's first meeting with Jesus: John 1:41

1. We know nothing about Simon's spiritual condition at that stage

2. Yet Simon's first meeting with Jesus was *saving* (John 6:44)

3. Jesus' prophetic work about Simon's future reveal God's grace

B. What does portion of Simon's history teach us?

1. That salvation is a matter of God's sovereign grace: Rom. 9:16

2. That many initially seek Jesus for less than spiritual reasons

II. Saving acquaintance with God brings a sense of awe for Him

A. Simon returned after John 1 to his fishing trade (Luke 5:2-3)

1. Yet Peter was a *listener* among those who heard Jesus preach (vs. 5)

2. Yet God blessed Jesus' teaching to Simon's heart: vs. 4-5

B. Obedient respect for Word of God is a clear mark of saving grace

1. Where God's Spirit is at work we tremble at the WORD of God
a. even to truth that is painful or disagreeable to the flesh

b. saving grace teaches us to say 'What wilt thou have me to do?'

2. Where God builds His Kingdom, no area of life remains exempt

III. Saving acquaintance with God brings a deep level of discomfort

A. Miraculous catch brings a *new awareness* to Simon's heart

1. Seeing God's *omniscience and omnipotence* cringed Simon's heart

2. At once Jesus' closeness is *uncomfortable and unbearable* (vs. 8)
 - a. grace teaches that we are unfit and unworthy for Jesus company

M. Henry: Those whom Christ designs to admit to the most intimate acquaintance with Him, He first makes sensible that they deserve to be set at the greatest distance from him. We must all own ourselves sinful men and that therefore Jesus Christ might justly depart from us: but woe, if the Savior would depart from us!

- b. Peter's request to 'depart from me' flows from a tender regard for God's honor and glory

- B. Is such an understanding of God and yourself worked in your heart?
 1. It is the 'universal' awareness of those taught by God in Scripture
 2. Why is it so necessary for us to learn same Simon learned?
 - a. needed to prepare our heart for needing Christ as priest
 - b. Is Christ's priestly work becoming more and more your spiritual meat and drink? (John 6:53)

Closing Observation: Jesus' response to Simon's request: ***Fear not!***

- A. Those who tremble as Simon did need not fear: Is. 57:15 & 66:2

THOUGHTS TO PONDER THROUGH ...

Saving faith is not the human contribution of a sinner seeking salvation but the divine contribution of the gracious God seeking a sinner.

Conversion is a deep work – a heart work. It goes throughout the man, throughout the mind, throughout the members, throughout the entire life. (J. Alleine)

Conversion is but the first step in the divine life in the soul. And consideration is the first step toward conversion. (M. Henry)

Regeneration is a single act, complete in itself and never repeated. Conversion is the beginning of holy living, the commencement of a journey which is constant, life-long and progressive. (A. A. Hodge)

The almighty power of God in the conversion of a sinner is the most mysterious of all the works of God. (T. Hooker)