

BIBLE TALK 2

How Hard Is Forgiveness?

BIBLE READING

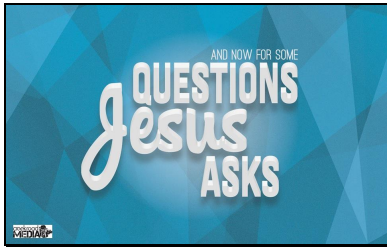
Luke 5:17-26

BIG IDEA

Jesus demonstrated his authority over sickness and all creation but his ultimate authority was over sin...and his ultimate mission was to die on a cross to bring forgiveness of sins.

KEY VERSE

“Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?”
Luke 5:23

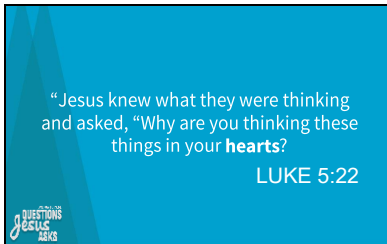


We're wrestling in this series with the **QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS**

The **SEARCHING** questions Jesus asks
Because **MUCH MORE IMP.** than the qns we ask of
God are the ones he asks of us

Qns that don't allow us to **HIDE** in the darkness
hurling our Qns at GOD

Qns that shine a **SPOTLIGHT** into our hearts... ***Asking deep Qns of US***



QJA are Qns of the **HEART ... Y'might have noticed...**
Jesus' **FIRST** question in that reading – was a QN that
sums up **ALL** his QNS

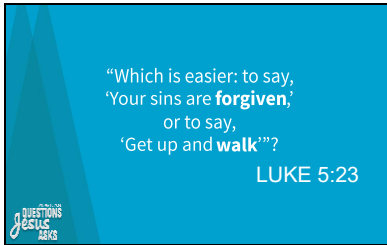
"WHY WERE YOU THINKING THESE THINGS IN YOUR HEARTS" Luke 5:22

He knows when you're trying to push back on him...
Resist him... Qn him... Qn his **LORDSHIP**
And he comes back with QNS of his own



But it's Jesus' **SECOND** Qn in our reading that we're
focusing on today
A question raised by this incident with the paralysed
man

It's the question: ***"how hard is FORGIVENESS"***
Do you think **FORGIVENESS** is hard or **EASY**
Do you think **FORGIVENESS** of sins... Of **YOUR** sins is a
HARD or **EASY** matter?



Jesus asks it **THIS** way... to EVERYONE looking on – to US as we look on

“Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are **forgiven,**’ or to say, ‘Get up and **walk**’”? Luke 5:23

It’s a Qn we don’t immediately get our HEADS around

Because like the rest – we reckon the “**WALK!**” bit is the **HARDER** one

“**FORGIVENESS**” – whatever? - that’s gotta be easy for God... – but get this guy to WALK!!???



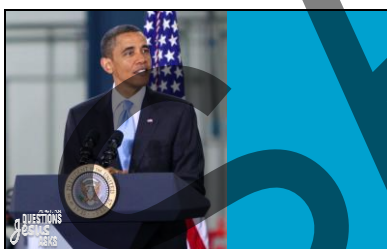
Y’see: it’s a Qn about WHAT’S MORE IMPRESSIVE

To get a paralysed man to **WALK...** or to **FORGIVE HIS SINS...**

To get his BUSTED LEGS to walk... Or to get his BROKEN HEART to walk...

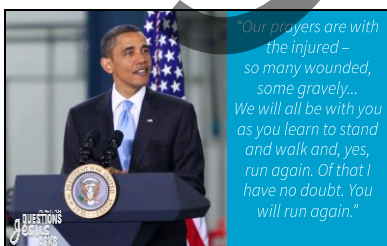
Jesus Qn confronts us that we can be WALKING... But DEAD MEN WALKING

There’s a **GREATER FREEDOM** we need... What you might call the walk of the **SOUL...** The walk of the **HEART**



There’s a more profound WALK than what our legs do for us...

As Barack Obama touched on in his speech after the Boston bombings



Where he said

“Our prayers are with the injured – so many wounded, some gravely...

We will all be with you as you learn to stand and walk and, yes, run again. Of that I have no doubt. You will run again.”

There’s more to **REALLY WALKING FREE** than legs

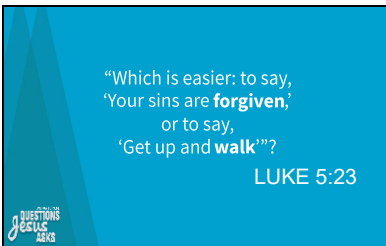


Try telling **KURT FEARNLEY** otherwise



As he backed up from Boston and won the wheelchair section of the London marathon during the week

There's more to walking...more to running... Than legs...



But what is the **BIGGER WALK** JESUS is asking about here??

This **ULTIMATE WALK** of the SOUL??

And are YOU walking **THIS** walk?

Are YOU walking this walk of the **HEART**... Of the SOUL



We'll **COME BACK** to the paralysed man in a moment

And look at the **BUILD UP** in Luke 5

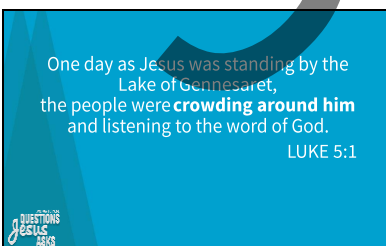
Because Luke gives us 3 **SCENES** – all building to the question about forgiveness

Scene 1...



SCENE 1 is about a **MASSIVE CATCH** of fish

A MIRACULOUS catch of fish ...



Jesus is **TEACHING**... Huge crowds are **GATHERING**

So he hops on a boat ... Pushes out a bit... Keeps teaching

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were **crowding around him** and listening to the word of God. LUKE 5:1

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and **let down the nets for a catch.**" LUKE 5:4

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and **let down the nets for a catch.**" LUKE 5:4

Jesus has greater ILLUSTRATIVE POWERS at his disposal than the average preacher. So he asks Simon a fisherman in the crowd... To let his net down Gospel doesn't come with a backing track but the music would go low .. A long pause

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and **haven't caught anything...**" LUKE 5:5

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night **and haven't caught anything...**" LUKE 5:5

They've been out ALL NIGHT... haven't hooked a SINGLE FISH... *What's the point??*

Which kinda suggests there's not much point with one last try

For Simon – he's a PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN

...if I say to Rossie "I've been out all night fishing... I don't have to supply the "haven't caught a thing" = assumed

But for Simon this was an usually bad day at work... Not helped by a carpenter...

But suddenly Simon remembers WHO is talking to him. MORE THAN A CARPENTER you might put it ...

One day as **Jesus** was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the **word of God.** LUKE 5:1

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

LUKE gave us a big hint as this scene opened...

One day as **Jesus** was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the **word of God.** LUKE 5:1


See: are they listening to JESUS or listening to GOD?... The answer's YES.

Listening to JESUS... You're listening to someone with all the Authority of god

Last week's Qn: "***didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?***" As a BOY he was listening to his father...

As a MAN.. Listening to him ***IS*** listening to his father


Simon answered,
"Master, we've worked hard all night
and haven't caught anything..."
LUKE 5:5



So this is not Simon's FINAL ANSWER!!

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night **and haven't caught anything...**" LUKE 5:5

Simon answered,
"Master, we've worked hard all night and
haven't caught anything...
But because you say so,
I will let down the nets."
LUKE 5:5



He **LOCKS IN** instead THIS answer:

Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything... **But because you say so,** I will let down the nets." LUKE 5:5

"BECAUSE YOU SAY SO" ...because you say so I will let down the nets... ... BECAUSE... YOU ... SAY... **That is a VERY GOOD ANSWER to a direction of Jesus!**




And so Luke finishes this story about this **MASSIVE CATCH** of fish

How they have to pull up a **SECOND** boat there are **SO MANY...**

This catch is **THIS BIG...** It's **BIGGER ..** Both boasts overflowing

Picture the **EXCITEMENT...** The **CHEERS ... SIMON'S JOY...** **But THEN....**

When Simon Peter saw this,
he fell at Jesus' knees and said,
**"Go away from me, Lord,
I am a sinful man!"**
LUKE 5:8



But then the backing track changes to a more

SOMBRE tone... When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"** LUKE 5:8

Because in this **MASSIVE** catch of fish

In this **MASSIVE** display of the **AUTHORITY** of **Jesus**

Simon realises he has a much more **MASSIVE** **PROBLEM** than **FISH...** Than **JOBS...** Than **LEGS...**

He's cut to the HEART...

He's got a **SIN** problem ... A **HEART** problem... A **SOUL** problem

Somehow in the presence of **Jesus..** Of **God...** Light shines in... **DARKNESS**

Then Jesus said to Simon,
“Don’t be afraid;
from now on you will fish for people.” So
they pulled their boats up on shore, left
everything and followed him.

LUKE 5:10-11

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

Jesus speaks to his fear ... And says “don’t be afraid!”

Then Jesus said to Simon, “**Don’t be afraid**”; from now on you will **fish for people**.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him**. LUKE 5:10-11

Jesus says... I’m NOT going to **WALK AWAY** from you
In fact... You’re going to **WALK WITH ME**...



See: this episode is NOT REALLY about a huge catch of fish

So they pulled their boats up on shore,
left everything and followed him.

LUKE 5:11

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

***It’s NOT a story about a great catch of fish
It’s a story about people who WALK AWAY from a
great catch of fish***

So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him**. LUKE 5:11

It’s a story of a man who thought NO FISH was his problem

And then discovers a BIGGER ONE – walk away from me Lord

NO... You walk away from your old life... AND FOLLOW ME



What will it look like for you to join the WALK OF JESUS ?

What might you need to WALK AWAY from ?

What transformation might come to your life about what really matters?

Last week – we looked at WHERE we want Jesus to show up

Asking Jesus to follow us ... We know THE WALK/JOURNEY/DESTINATION

Jesus should show up and JOIN our walk...



Walk with us on the journey to STUDY success



Walk with us on the journey to CAREER success



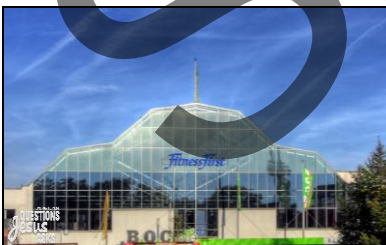
Walk with us on the journey to RETIREMENT success



Walk with us on the journey to FAMILY success



Walk with us to HEALTH success



Walk with us to BODY IMAGE success



Walk with us to POPULARITY success



Walk with us to MATERIAL success

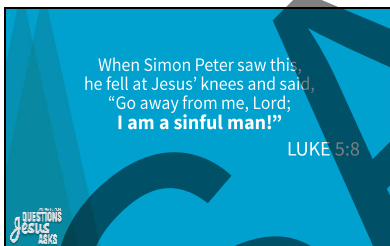


Walk with us to FINANCIAL success



SEE: sitting in that boat is a TON of CASH... BEST PAYDAY EVER

Sitting in that boat is his WILDEST DREAM
And Simon walks away



Because he suddenly realise CASH isn't his biggest problem

FISH, CASH, LEGS, HEALTH, JOBS, CAREERS...
DREAM sits in his boast... Overshadowing
NIGHTMARE dawns in his heart...

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; **I am a sinful man!**" LUKE 5:8

How hard is FORGIVENESS?

Simon knows – that's a question that DWARFS everything else

When **Simon Peter** saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

LUKE 5:8

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

When **Simon Peter** saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
LUKE 5:8

It's interesting to see what Luke does with Simon's NAME in this story

As a clue to the BIG THING going on here...

He's called SIMON before this story

He's called SIMON PETER at this turning point

He's called PETER after this story

New **NAME**... New **IDENTITY**... New **PRIORITIES**...

New **WALK**... New **LIFE** ... **But HOW???**



"When Christ calls a person, he tells them to come and die"

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – who was killed by Hitler for following Jesus said this:

"When Christ calls a person, he tells them to come and die"

In a sense... SIMON just died... PETER was born

He's not just walking **for CASH** anymore

He's walking for the TRUE LORD... **for JESUS**

And it's not just him ... It's a "THEY"

"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

So **they** pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him

Luke 5:1-11

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

So **they** pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:1-11

James & John – sons of Zebedee – partners

FISHING PARTNERS just became **MINISTRY** PARTNERS

Working for the ultimate father & son business...



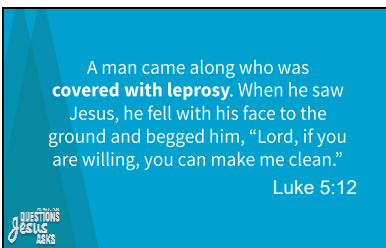
But “don’t be afraid”... WHY?????..... HOW?????
Fish = EFFORTLESS... **HEARTS???**



SCENE 2...



Is like the 1stC equivalent of today’s BIRD FLU fears
Featuring a man who’s the 1stC equivalent of
wearing a “I’M CARRYING THE BIRD FLU” t-shirt



A man came along who was **covered with leprosy**.
When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground
and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can
make me clean.” Luke 5:12

He’s COVERED with LEPROSY

... This isn’t necessarily leprosy in the modern sense
of Hansen’s disease

... In the Bible refers to wide range of skin
conditions... He’s **COVERED**

... Bigger issue is couldn’t go to the temple... Place of
CLEANNES

... He embodies... What Peter just discovered... We’re
all unclean

... We’re more than SKIN, LEGS, CASH, CAREERS ...

A man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, **“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”**

Luke 5:12

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

And building on Simon Peter’s “Because you say so ...” ... his “Lord...”

This UNCLEAN of UNCLEAN... asks Jesus, begs Jesus ...

A man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, **“Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”** Luke 5:12

“You can make me clean”

I’m willing says Jesus ...

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. **“Be clean!”**

And immediately the leprosy left him. Luke 5:13

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. **“Be clean!”** And immediately the leprosy left him. Luke 5:13

A kind of a “TOO EASY” response... IMMEDIATELY... **how hard us FORGIVENESS... Real UNCLEANNESS?**

Notice: Jesus TOUCHES him.

Jesus reached out his hand and **touched** the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!”

And immediately the leprosy left him. Luke 5:13

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

Jesus reached out his hand and **touched** the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him. Luke 5:13

Why? Not paralysed man. Can do REMOTE healings. Why touch... Hint of things to come – should make Jesus UNCLEAN??

See: how hard us FORGIVENESS... Removing real UNCLEANNESS?

Wash not just SKIN but SOULS???

Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, **show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices** that Moses commanded for your cleansing, **as a testimony to them.**"

Luke 5:13

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, **show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices** that Moses commanded for your cleansing, **as a testimony to them.**" Luke 5:13

This man who could never walk to the temple ... Just had the REAL temple walk into his life...

This man who could never walk to the temple ... Now walks right in...

How hard is forgiveness... = Jesus building the real temple...

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in **my Father's house?**"

Luke 2:49

QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS

Tension of TWO **FATHERS** last week

Tension of TWO **TEMPLES**... Here

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in **my Father's house?**" Luke 2:49

How hard is forgiveness... = Jesus building the real temple...



SCENE 1: ...real walking is MORE THAN **WEALTH**



SCENE 2: ...real walking is MORE THAN **HEALTH**



What's the real WALK we need??....

EFFORTLESS? TOO EASY???



Which brings us to SCENE 3



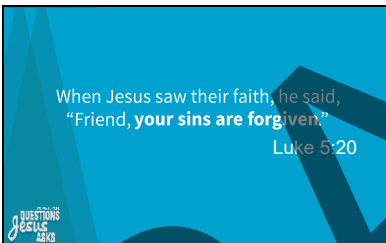
The scene literally about walking ...

Queues to see Jesus are longer than KFC drive thru on a Friday night

Owner of this house gets a FREE SKYLIGHT as this man is lowered

And the people inside think they're in front row seats to a first class miracle...

And Jesus looks at the guy... And says ...



When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, **your sins are forgiven.**" Luke 5:20

"your sins are forgiven" ... And what happens next? Soundtrack?

Awkward silence... Guy's still lying there...

Disciples... PROMPT JESUS... The **LEGS!!!**

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began **thinking to themselves**, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**” Luke 5:21

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

Jesus does some MIND reading... **HEART** reading...

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began **thinking to themselves**, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? **Who can forgive sins but God alone?**” Luke 5:21

Pharisees are RIGHT of course

They just don't know what Luke showed us ... **JESUS = GOD**

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘**Your sins are forgiven,**’ or to say, ‘**Get up and walk?**’” Luke 5:22-23

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

THE QUESTION ...

Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, “Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘**Your sins are forgiven,**’ or to say, ‘**Get up and walk?**’” Luke 5:22-23

I'm about to do the WALK bit... Too easy

But I'm also going to the SOUL bit... That's much harder...

But I want you to know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Luke 5:24

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

I want you to connect the two things...

But I want you to know that **the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**” So he said to the paralyzed man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” Luke 5:24



And so the guy walks.. And we're left wondering What Jesus is getting at with **forgiveness being much “HARDER”**


How Hard is Forgiveness?

Luke 5:17-26

QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS

How Hard is Forgiveness? How HARD will it be?

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely **set out** for Jerusalem.
Luke 9:51



Luke tells his story of Jesus as a WALK...

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely **set out** for Jerusalem. Luke 9:51


A walkway to heaven... That's the walk these people are joining –
That's the greater DESTINATION they're walking to



Jesus WALKING to Jerusalem...

To make good on his offer to Peter... And the leper...
And the paralysed man
So they can join him in heaven... In his Father's house

Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"
Luke 24:26




**The child who knew he had to be at the TEMPLE
Knew he would have to be on a CROSS to really
bring God's presence... Forgiveness...**

Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:26

How could he say to Peter "DON'T BE AFRAID"?
How could he say to the leper "BE CLEAN" ?
How could he say to the paralysed man "YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN?"

Did not the Messiah, as **an absolute necessity** have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"
Luke 24:26



Did not the Messiah, as **an absolute necessity** have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:26

The absolute necessity of the cross –

Where Jesus took on Simon's sin... To make him into a **PETER**. Where he took on the leper's uncleanness – to really make him **CLEAN**. Where his legs were immobilised – so the PL man could not just walk home... but **COME HOME TO GOD...**

To join the WALK OF LIFE... The walk following Jesus



**A walk not chasing WEALTH
A walk not chasing HEALTH**



A walk chasing ... Catching PEOPLE...

**“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”
“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”**

So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.** Luke 5:1-11

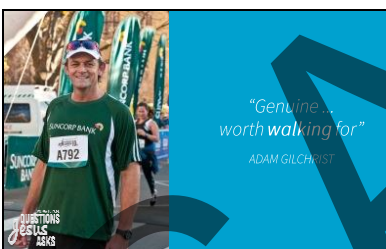
Inviting others to join the walk of life... Of forgiveness... Of eternal life ... FOLLOWING JESUS



Y’know Adam Gilchrist FAMOUSLY WALKED in a world cup SF

Given not out... He walked...

He said that’s what you’re doing... **If y’GENUINE ...**

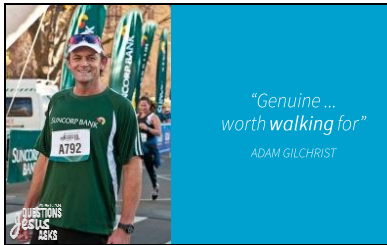


Now he’s an ambassador for Suncorp ...

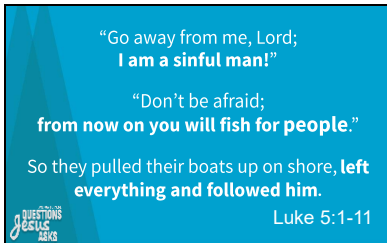
“Genuine ... worth walking for” ADAM GILCHRIST



And encouraging us all to walk... From one bank to another...



“GENUINE... WORTH WALKING FOR”...



**Friends, there’s something MUCH MORE PROFOUND to walk for... than a new BANK
It’s a new LIFE**

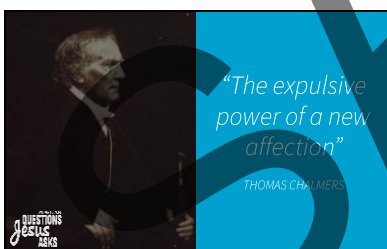
***“Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”
“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”***

So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:1-11

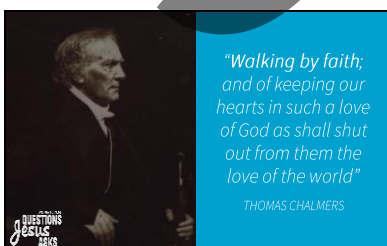
In fact it’s a walk away from being ruled by CASH concerns
To ETERNAL concerns... PEOPLE concerns...



***Y’see ... What’s the KEY to this new walk
A walk not chasing WEALTH ??
A walk not chasing HEALTH ??***



Thomas Chalmers described it as
“The expulsive power of a new affection”

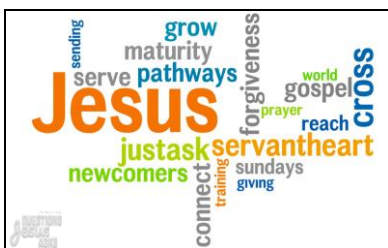


**Jesus doesn’t just say stop walking for that stuff
He offers this greater walk....
*“Walking by faith; and of keeping our hearts in such a love of God as shall shut out from them the love of the world” THOMAS CHALMERS***

"Go away from me, Lord;
I am a sinful man!"
"Don't be afraid;
from now on you will fish for people."
So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.**
QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS
Luke 5:1-11

A HEART for JESUS
A HEART for the LOST
A HEART for GIVING y'all to catching people
Investing in others... Inviting others .. To join the WALK

"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
"Don't be afraid; **from now on you will fish for people.**"
So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.** Luke 5:1-11



Next few weeks Jesus questions are going to focus in on GIVING.. But for now:
It starts with GIVING YOURSELF
That Jesus gave everything...
Heart for JESUS
Heart for LOST
Heart for GIVING... Starting with giving yourself

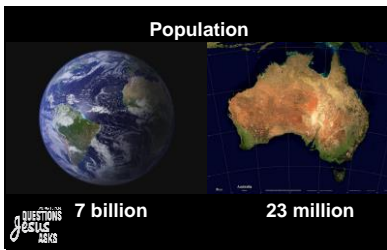
"Go away from me, Lord;
I am a sinful man!"
"Don't be afraid;
from now on you will fish for people."
So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.**
QUESTIONS
JESUS
ASKS
Luke 5:1-11

THEY LEFT EVERYTHING!!!
PEOPLE BECAME THEIR FOCUS

"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
"Don't be afraid; **from now on you will fish for people.**"
So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.** Luke 5:1-11



That other people might join the WALK OF ETERNAL LIFE



In 2013 our country's population clicked over to 23 million...

9:57 on a Tuesday night ... (not sure how they worked that out)

World of 7 billion people



OUR CITY – OUR WORLD

To reach as many PEOPLE as possible for Jesus

To reach as many HEARTS as possible for Jesus

To REACH THE CITY, REACH THE WORLD for Jesus



A city growing to _____ of those 23 million ...



These people need to hear about Jesus.

You know these people.

You work, live and spend time with them.

Maybe you even pray for them.

But do you GIVE for them?

Do you give so that they will MEET JESUS?

Starts with giving yourself



A walk not chasing WEALTH

A walk not chasing HEALTH



JESUS... IS WORTH WALKING FOR

Inviting others to join the walk of eternal life

Whatever you need to walk away from him

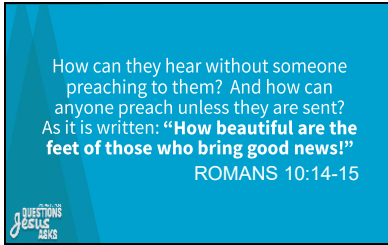
Something much more EXCITING to be part of..

FISHING FOR PEOPLE



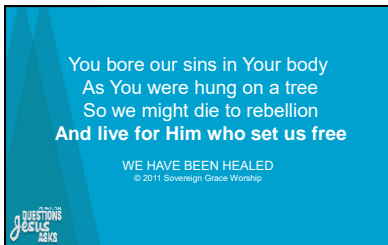
...more walking with us now...

You've asked
You've been asked
You're ready to start asking!!!



That's a beautiful WALK!!
Joining the walk to HEAVEN...

How can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: **"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"** ROMANS 10:14-15



We're about to sing about being HEALED in the way that matters most because we're more than legs..
And fish... And catch.

You bore our sins in Your body
As You were hung on a tree
So we might die to rebellion
And live for Him who set us free
WE HAVE BEEN HEALED © 2011 Sovereign Grace
Worship

***Sing with hearts for Jesus ...
Through whom we WALK FREE...***