

The Stories That Remain

Pastor Jen Yarbrough | June 25, 2023

Message Thread: We can have faith to follow Jesus.

KEY TEXT: Luke 5:27-28 NLT

Jesus calls those who have been disqualified to follow Him.

- It's My opinion of you that matters most.
- You are chosen.
- You can be forgiven.
- You can be made new and restored.
- Your failures can be redeemed.

The irresistible call of Jesus is for us too. We can move from disqualified to qualified.

We can have faith to follow Jesus.

- Revelation 3:10 NLT

Levi was faced with a choice, just like each of us are.

- Will we put our faith into action and choose to follow Jesus?
- The choice we have made is reflected in our thoughts and actions.

"Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life." Deuteronomy 30:19-20a NLT

- John 10:10 NLT

Two options:

- **Follow Jesus**
 - His heart towards us is love and for our good, full of truth and grace.
- **Follow the enemy of our souls**
 - His heart towards us is to steal, kill and destroy.
 - He is a liar.

"... He was a murderer from the beginning. He has always hated the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, it is consistent with his character; for he is a liar and the father of lies." John 8:44 NLT

Lies

- You are worthless.
- You blew it, and your life will never be restored.
- If you looked differently, you would feel happy and satisfied.
- You need your addiction—you can't live without it.
- It's not that big of a problem—this really isn't an issue you have to deal with.

Truths

God wants to forgive and restore me.

- 2 Chronicles 7:14 NLT

God can redeem my failures.

- Psalms 107:2 NLT

I do not need whatever I am addicted to.

- Psalms 46:1 NIV
- Psalms 16:11 ESV

My body was intentionally and perfectly designed by God.

- Psalms 139:13-15 NLT

I need to address the areas of my life that are not in line with the heart of God, even those I might consider small.

- Psalms 86:11 NLT
- 1 Corinthians 5:6 NLT

Who will we choose to follow?

- KEY TEXT: Luke 5:29-32 NLT

We are all "sick"—at one time far from God and disqualified.

- Romans 3:23 NLT

Jesus loves those who are far from God—sinners—and we should too.

- Romans 5:6 NLT

Live as a light in the darkness.

- Ephesians 5:7-11 NLT

Challenge:

- Who will I choose to follow?
- Do my thoughts and actions reflect the heart of the one I have chosen?
- What will I think or do differently in order to align with the choice I have made?

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