
[SERMON NOTES]

Stuck... Again (1 Cor. 9:24-25; Matt. 4:18-20, 8:21-22; Luke 9:23; Rom. 8:1-2, 6, 9-11)

Commitment is a _____ event.

Give yourself no other _____!

#1 Net of _____

#2 Net of _____

#3 Net of _____

Following Jesus and commitment always _____.

Further notes:

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

This week we talked a lot about commitment—why we struggle with it and why it's so important. ***What are some of the hardest and most rewarding commitments that you have ever made in your life?***

[DIGGING DEEPER]

In the message this week, we learned about how the disciples immediately left their nets to follow Jesus when he called them to be his disciples. We were given three kinds of 'nets' that we may be called to drop in our lives: the net of excuses, the net of control, and the net of shame. ***Which of these three 'nets' do you most struggle to leave behind as you aim to follow Jesus in your life? Feel free to come up with your own 'net' that describes what you struggle to leave behind in order to follow Jesus.***

Over the next 21 Days we are inviting everyone to consider what their next step of obedience with Jesus is. Here are some questions to help prompt a discussion about what those might be:

- *What are some of the areas that you most desire to grow in your faith this year?*
- *What are some of the things that get in the way of going deeper with God?*
- *What are some of your deepest unmet longings in life?*
- *What (if any) have been the promptings of God in your life over the past few months?*

There's an invitation over the next 21 days to be more intentional with God, specifically through the practices of prayer and fasting. There are many places throughout scripture where prayer and fasting play an integral role in the life of the people of God. One of these is in Nehemiah 1. ***Read Nehemiah 1. What are some things that you notice in this chapter about how and why Nehemiah responds in fasting and prayer?***

Fasting is setting aside something specific that you hunger for in life for a set period of time and instead redirect that hunger towards God, oftentimes in prayer and scripture. ***Is there anything in your life that you feel led to set aside for part or all of the next 21 days in order to focus on God and his will for your life? (i.e. social media, entertainment, sports, screens or devices, hobbies, food [in appropriate and safe ways... see resources below for more information], etc.)***

We invite you to check out www.fcc-online.org/commit2023 or the COMMIT tab on the App for further COMMIT resources on engaging prayer and fasting for the next 21 days of the series. There, you will find:

- *Ideas to take next steps in the areas of Connection, Community, Communing, and Contribution*
- *Text Challenges and Resources for each area of commitment*
- *Daily scriptures, reflections, and prayer prompts throughout the 21 days*
- *Video and PDF resources on what is prayer and fasting, why we should do it, and how to do it*
- *A Digital Commit Card Form to fill out at the end of the 21 days*

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend's message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible, and ask yourself: *What does this teach me about God? Myself and others? And how do I follow Jesus better?*

Matthew 4

Luke 9

1 Timothy 4

Esther 4