**Luke 5**

YOUR PROMISED LAND

**3––REJECTING FAKE “PROMISED LANDS”**

**Luke 5:4–11 (NKJV)** When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” **6** And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. **7** So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” **9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” **11** So when they had brought their boats to land, **they FORSOOK ALL and followed Him.**

**JESUS WAS CALLING SIMON PETER TO FOLLOW HIM AND TO POSSESS HIS PROMISED LAND … TO FULFILL HIS GOD-GIVEN ASSIGNMENT AND DESTINY.**

**PETER WAS NO DOUBT TEMPTED TO STAY WITH THAT HUGE CATCH OF FISH,**

**BUT HE REJECTED THE “FAKE PROMISED LAND”**

**EX – Jesus also asked the Rich Young Ruler to forsake all and follow Him, but he wouldn’t forsake all**

* **HE CHOSE A “FAKE PROMISED LAND”**

**WHAT’S HOLDING YOU BACK FROM DOING WHATEVER GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO?**

**JESUS FORSOOK HEAVEN TO COME TO EARTH AS A HUMAN BEING … AND STILL HE HAD TEMPTATIONS**

**Luke 4:5–8 (NKJV)** Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. **6** And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. **7** Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.” **8** And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’”

**BUT LATER, IN Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** And Jesus [said], “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

**JESUS OBTAINED HIS PROMISED LAND.**

**“FAKE PROMISED LANDS” ARE OFTEN TRYING TO GET THE REWARD PREMATURELY**

**THAT’S WHAT THE DEVIL PROMISES … BUT, OF COURSE, HE’S A LIAR**

**AND EVEN IF YOU DID ACQUIRE WHAT HE OFFERED, WHAT DID IT COST YOU?**

**Matthew 16:26 (The Living Bible)** “What profit is there if you gain the whole world—and lose eternal life? What can be compared with the value of eternal life?”

**THANK GOD JESUS REJECTED THAT “FAKE PROMISED LAND”… OTHERWISE WE’D BE ETERNALLY LOST**

**THE APOSTLE PAUL CONSTANTLY REJECTED “FAKE PROMISED LANDS”… AT THE END OF HIS FINAL MISSIONARY JOURNEY, HE PASSED EPHESUS AND CALLED FOR THE ELDERS … PASTORS … TO COME SEE HIM ONE LAST TIME…**

**Acts 20:18–24 (NLT)** When they arrived he declared, “You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now **19** I have done the Lord’s work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials that came to me from the plots of the Jews. **20** I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. **21** I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus. **22** And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me, **23** except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. **24** But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.”

**ONE “FAKE PROMISED LAND” IS AVOIDANCE OF NECESSARY SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL**

**IN 1 Corinthians 9:20–22, 24–25 [PAUL SAID],** To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. **21** To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. **22** To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some…**. Verse 24** Don’t you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! **25** All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. **(ESV)**

**PEOPLE, EVEN BELIEVERS, ARE CHASING AFTER MANY THINGS. WHAT ARE YOU GOING AFTER?**

**Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV)** Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

**THIS RACE THAT GOD HAD CALLED US TO IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN** **ANYTHNG ELSE IN OUR LIVES, AND WE MUST REJECT “FAKE PROMISED LANDS.”**

**I HAVE HAD TO LAY ASIDE WEIGHTS MANY TIMES**

**EX – Broke off a relationship in HS**

**EX – Abandoned plans to become a Computer Technician … Paramedic**

**TESTIMONIES**

**[EXCERPTS FROM EMAIL]** Good Afternoon Pastor Jerry,

I have been wanting to send this out now for a few weeks. …

Part 6 [of] The Good Life: Righteousness and Justice was life changing. I believe this message was posted to watch on FEB 14, 2021 for House Churches. I… have been seeking and believing for Promotion at work [for many years, and applied numerous times]. … I have been on Band 3 for a long time. Band 0, Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4. In my Band are 390 candidates.

Back in Sept 2020 I was able to Interview for a … Supervisor position for an Office in … Not the best location … [I] Never heard back from that Interview. Fast Forward to JAN 2021, I received another Interview for … Supervisor at my Current Office … and was very excited to be offered the position.. [but I] Never heard back from that Interview [either].

Feb 14, 2021 [I heard the message] "The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed." Psalm 103:6. You defined executes righteousness and justice as God making things right that were previously unfair and those who were not treated fairly, [as] the Children of Israel in Egypt … were not treated fairly, and [when they] were oppressed … they cried out to God and He heard them. ... I have been with [this organization] now almost 10 years. I was so stirred during the message that while praying afterwards for our group I declared and cried out to God for everyone present. …. I walked out the door and grabbed my phone and immediately texted a friend … "Retribution is coming to you this week!" and I immediately received that Word for myself and "My Family"

Context: My Brother in-law has been battling employment … since July. My Sister and I have been faithful people who Tithe wherever we are. … My Brother In-law has probably over a hundred resume and applications out there and has received several interviews and still nothing. He [was] currently coming to [the] end of unemployment at the end of FEB [was] … wondering how to pay their mortgage among all their other bills.

Thursday Feb 18, 2021 I had a scheduled interview again for [a] …Supervisor at a new … office … doing the same work related things that I do ... Appointment time was 10:30am. I [had been] soaking in this Word Retribution now for 4 days.... I completed the Interview and felt good about it. … I went back to work and finished my day at home. … at 4PM … my cell phone showing … my boss was calling me or my Manager. … I was also expecting my office to call me about the Interview back in Jan. It was not any of those 2 persons. It was the Manager who Interviewed me at 10:30AM that morning. She offered me the position! After years of prayer, I was a little besides myself. I accepted the Promotional Offer immediately… I write today Friday March 5, 2021 as my last day as a … Worker [before] I start my new assignment on Monday … as a… Supervisor.

But Wait........ There's more!!!!!

I sent a text to my Mom on Friday Feb 19, 2021 and asked her to listen to Righteousness and Justice teaching. She immediately listened to it and stated she was going to encourage some people at her Church … with the message. So I shared with her what had happened with the Promotion. So she sent a message to my [other] Sister ... [She] and her husband listened to the message on Monday Feb 22, 2021. He was finishing his devotions on Wednesday morning and cried out to the Lord regarding some income they had overpaid to the State with taxes. He went to the mailbox and the check was there in the mail for the money they needed from the State. Another bill he needed to pay was overdue and he cried out again and declared retribution and he checked their bank account and the Federal Tax return had been received that morning which is what was needed to get them through the month of FEB.

He also had a scheduled interview that afternoon on Wednesday. Again they cried out that night and morning during their devotional time. [And] the next day in the evening, he checked his email and received an offer of employment!

To confirm what we read earlier this week, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

I really appreciate your ear to the Holy Spirit and being a messenger of God's Word. God is Always Faithful!

**I WAS NOT CALLED TO BE A COMPUTER TECHNICIAN OR A PARAMEDIC … I WAS CALLED TO TEACH AND PREACH GOD’S WORD AND TO HELP PEOPLE POSSESS THE PROMISES OF GOD**

**EX – Since we began multiplying in 2006, I personally have not had a salary increase … but we were able to bring on many people and train them to be pastors … I wouldn’t trade it for anything in the world … by the grace of God the ministry continues to multiply. We’ve been a part of planting 35 churches since we began in 2000.**

**NOW … GOD HAS GIVEN ME A NEW ASSIGNMENT … FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE I AM CALLED TO TRAIN AND EQUIP DISCIPLE-MAKERS AND CHURCH PLANTERS**

**Ephesians 4:11–12 (NKJV)** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **12** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**EXCERPTS FROM MY JOURNAL MAY 6, 2020**

**Deuteronomy 34:1–3 (NKJV)** Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is across from Jericho. And the Lord showed him all the land of Gilead as far as Dan, **2** all Naphtali and the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, **3** the South, and the plain of the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, as far as Zoar.

**I AM SO CONVINCED THAT GOD IS REAL … THAT HIS PROMISES ARE TRUE … THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS LEADING US**

**WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU? WHAT SHOULD YOU LET GO OF? WHAT HAS HE CALLED YOU TO PURSUE?**

**FOR ME, I AM NOW TRAINING PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS, CAREERS, CULTURES & LANGUAGES TO BE DISCIPLE-MAKERS AND CHURCH PLANTERS**

**THIS WEEK IS THE COMPLETION OF THE VERY FIRST BBST FOR THE LEADERS … AND WE HAVE NOW OPENED UP THIS TRAINING TO THE PUBLIC.**

**IF GOD IS STIRRING YOUR HEART TO COME AND RECEIVE THIS TRAINING, HERE’S WHAT YOU SHOULD DO… (SIGN UP FOR BBST ON THE APP OR WEBSITE)**