



God Ruined My Life | Doug Wekenman | 10.3.21
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

What's one takeaway you've received from this series, "Vantage Point", so far?

SHARE

Welcome back to Group! This week, Doug continued our series "Vantage Point." He preached an important message reminding us that the will God has for our lives doesn't always necessarily align with ours. Our will and way could never produce or yield the fruit and abundance for the kingdom. God sees the full picture and is looking generationally over temporarily. When Jesus is our ultimate source of joy, we can allow God to disrupt our lives for the better. We can cling to His promises knowing that He is faithful to make good on them even in the wilderness and what seems desolate.

But before we dive in, we know that there is power in our stories, choose one or two people from your group to share their story using the following questions as prompts.

- 1. Tell me about your upbringing. What are a few of the significant life events that shaped and molded you?**
- 2. Have you ever had a moment where you realized God is real and loves you? If so, tell us about it.**

3. How have you changed in the last five years?

G R O W

Read Luke 5:1-11

How does this passage resonate with Doug's message?

What can we learn and take away from their "yes" to following Jesus?

"Follow me and I'll make you fish for men" Jesus says to a few fishermen who only knew how to fish the deep sea. Struggling what seemed all night to find a good catch, this Rabbi has the audacity to tell these men to lower their nets one more time. Doing so they catch the harvest they couldn't accomplish all night on their own strength. Recognizing who he was, Jesus interrupts their party by inviting them into his kingdom to follow him.

God's plans and will for our lives usually come at the expense of our comfort. It's an invitation to partner with him, pivoting our direction to build his kingdom over ours. Stepping into a new life and laying the groundwork for the generations behind us. His plans for us are not just bigger but better than what we can imagine, but it will cost us doing life our way by disrupting what we're use to only to better our lives and the ones around us.

The fishermen only saw a Rabbi and a net full of fish, but Jesus saw his kingdom builders. Eventually, these fishermen would be given new names, a new life, and would establish the early church that would bless generations beyond what they could see. They'd build his church from the ground up fishing for prodigals through a net casted wider than the net that probably failed them most days. God sees the eternal beyond what we can see which compels us to obey and say yes even when all we see is a boat and Jesus.

What is one thing you can lay down to Jesus in order that you may follow him?

What's one way God is disrupting your life right now?

MOVE

Read John 21:1-14

What part of this passage stands out to you?

What's the significance of Jesus appearing to the disciples?

After torment and an unjustified death, Jesus found the importance in appearing to the disciples over publicly triumphing in his resurrection. Jesus chose to eat breakfast with the friends who abandoned him in his darkest hour in order to set them free for their kingdom purpose. Peter would look to comfort in fishing to cope with the shame of his denial, yet Jesus would look for Peter and use an intentional meal to free him from the shame of his denial.

Doug begged the question: what's your version of fishing? What do we run to over running to Jesus at what feels like our lowest? Peter would later become a passionate disciple and follower of Jesus leading the revolution of the early church. But that's not the same Peter we read about in this passage. So how did he become the Peter of Acts we read about? It was in his worst and lowest moment where Jesus met him full of love, truth, and grace. Setting him free to become the Peter Jesus saw when he first called Simon (Peter's old name) to follow him.

This passage and Peter's story throughout the New Testament reminds us that God isn't looking for perfection but for willingness. Peter's willing heart led him back to Jesus re-posturing his heart towards the Kingdom. The bigger picture isn't our failures or weaknesses, it's eternity. God perfects what we cannot, which in return He can use us for what we can't do by ourselves. Peter and the disciples let God ruin both their plans and vices. They left everything to follow Jesus then failed miserably the night of Jesus's death. Yet, Jesus made perfect of their shame by sharing a meal with them on the beach to talk kingdom strategy as if Friday night never existed.

What area of weakness in your life do you need to let God into only to set you free?

What are some of your comfort zones or vices you can give to Jesus this week?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...
-Revelation 12:11