



Connect Notes - 15 June 2015

EVERY ONE MATTERS: GENEROUSITY – Bob Harrison

*And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,
And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.*

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

Luke 5:1-7 (KJV)

The first thing about increase is recognising that it is available to everyone who seizes the moment and doesn't miss the blessing.

The story of the fisherman (or businessmen of Jesus' day), shows us a few things about increase.

- We know that they were professional fisherman because they owned their boats.
- They had just had 24 hours of failure, catching nothing. When Jesus came along they had 24 hours of increase instead.

The person who knows how to do something is employable but the person who knows *why* it is done that way is the one for leadership.

- If you want to increase therefore, learn the *why* not just the *how*.

Why does God want us to increase?

- We observe the fishermen: the nets were breaking and the boat was sinking so their instinct would have been to get to shore in order to sell the fish and protect the boat.
- Instead they called over someone else's empty boat to share in the catch.
- God wants you to increase so that you can make a difference in the lives of others.

If you work on accumulating increase for yourself, we often see a point where people burn out.

- If you focus on others you have a spark that fills you with life.
- Sometimes, like the fishermen, you feel caught –you feel you have nothing to give to others.
- But we see that when they shared with others, their boat wasn't empty as a result.

God says that He gives seed to the sower (2 Corinthians 9:10 NKJV) – giving is a way to get into God's divine flow.

- Seeds show up with God's divine timing. But He doesn't speak about just replacing what we give, He speaks of a "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:38 NKJV).

Some people think that when they give away things or money it is out of their lives forever.

- In the kingdom it is more like transferring it from our earthly account to heaven's multiplying account.
- There is giving and then there is *being* a giver. Look for opportunities to give, to create habits of giving so that it is an instinct not unusual.

TALK ABOUT

* **The fishermen were willing to put out into the deep or "go to the next level". Consider what that would mean for you during this, Vision Builders' month.**

* **What difference does it make to know *why* we give?**

* **Do you have any stories of God providing seed at the perfect time?**

UPCOMING EVENTS

C3 CHURCH SYDNEY PRAYER MEETINGS

Each week our locations are gathering together across the City, humbling themselves and lifting up Sydney to God. We would love for you to join us on these powerful nights.

OXFORD FALLS / 7-8pm, every Tuesday

PENRITH / 7-8pm, every Tuesday

ROZELLE / 7-8pm, every Tuesday

SILVERWATER / 7-8pm 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month

OXFORD FALLS PRAYER AND WORSHIP GATHERINGS

Prayer and Worship Meeting held **every Wednesday** evening in the **Prayer Chapel** from **7.30pm - 8.30pm**.

The Prayer Chapel will also be open from **6pm - Midnight** on the **last Friday of every Month** for worship and prayer.

Both gatherings will be led by Minister of Prayer Heidi Wysman.