

Luke's account slows the scene down, suggesting prior encounters and deeper preparation. So, this may not have been the first time they met Jesus.

Immediate or not, the response is real. The men drop their nets leaving their old lives behind, not knowing what it will mean to be "*fishers of men*."

This response equates to the NT concept of repentance. metanoia = to turn around, change direction, reorient one's life.

Repentance is not just feeling the conviction to change. It is about going a different way.

**Our response to Jesus often leads to repentance.  
As such, repentance is our second R of the Christian faith.**

Jesus' call does not simply ask for agreement. It calls for movement. Just as advertisers want us to switch phone carriers or change brands, Jesus' invitation leads to a change, not in the products we use, but how and for whom we live our lives.

This is repentance. From old purposes to new ones.  
From life as it was to life reordered around God's will for us.

FINAL THOUGHTS Isaiah 9:1-4 p. 1,072  
"*Redemption*"

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."  
This feels like Advent or Christmas imagery, but the promise is for all seasons of the year, all seasons of life.

Darkness has a way of limiting life, frightening us, or leaving us stumbling—like a child needing a nightlight to sleep, or the relief when the power comes back on.

Isaiah's light points to God's redemption which relieves us of the burdens of a broken world, that we carry in life.

**This redemption, the work of God to bring light into our darkness is a third R of the Christian faith.**

Relationship, Repentance, Redemption are not independent, but interdependent. It is as we are in relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior do we experience both repentance and redemption in our lives. And likewise repentance and living more fully into God's redemption leads to a deeper relationship.

## Sermon Notes 02-01-2026

FIRST THOUGHTS Psalms 27:1-6 p. 864  
"*Relationship*"

The 3 R's of education? 3 R's of the Christian Faith

Start off with, Whom, Where, What is your refuge?

Psalmist – God is his refuge

(vs 1) The Lord is my light and my salvation (Whom)

(vs 1) The Lord is the stronghold of my life (Whom)

(vs. 4) One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life ((Where) to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord (What) and to seek him in his temple (Where)

For the Psalmist, the Whom, Where and What of refuge  
are all based on relationship with the Lord.

**Our first R of the Christian faith is rooted in relationship,  
a relationship with God in whom we take refuge.**

FURTHER THOUGHTS Matthew 4:18-25 p. 1,500  
"*Repentance*"

TV advertisement is meant to elicit a response.  
Some immediate and others more long term.

NFL football – Immediate – Pizza, wings, beer.  
Longer term - Phones, cars & trucks, investments.

In our Gospel reading Jesus is looking for a response:

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers (Simon & Andrew) ... They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Like a military recruitment ad, Jesus does not simply offer comfort. He offers a new identity and a new mission.

The pattern is repeated with James and John, sons of Zebedee.

At least as written here, the response was immediate:

At once they left their nets and followed him.

*Prayerfully, openly engage in relationships  
through Christ's love."*

**CONTACT INFO**

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**PRAYER LIST**

John Nimmon, Rev. Jim Richards, Catherine Bitner, Family of Jo Smith, Pastor Vern. Sam & Barb Shenk. Family of Bob Rhoades, Ed Webber. Family of Denny Woltz, Family of Donna Houser.

**Ginger McDermond** who is hospitalized with respiratory and other issues. (Request by Sherri Webber-Mains)

**Prayer Persons:** Matt & Karyn Cunningham-776-0279  
627 Mount Rock Rd. Carlisle PA 17015

**Local Church:** BS Heights Church of God- Chris Faylor

**Presbyterian:** 1<sup>st</sup> Carlisle- Tony Lorenz

See hallway table for various sign- up sheets and ways you can help the ministry here at 1stUP.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Feb 3 6:30pm CLC  
Feb 5. 8am Breakfast?

**BRIGHT SPOT**

The CLC committee is planning a music and game event for all in the Newville area who have memory issues and their caregivers/loved ones. It is called Bright Spot because it is designed to encourage fun and relaxation—a time to get away from the tasks of daily living. **Saturday, February 21 at 1:30 pm** is the event's date. We will begin with a get acquainted game, then enjoy music with Chip Messenger followed by Bingo and light refreshments. We need a few volunteers to help set up tables, greet folks as they come in and to offer assistance, if needed, during the event. A couple batches of cookies are needed, too. A sign up sheet is on the table. Help us to share God's love with our community. Questions? Call Rausa at 717-776-9142.

Join us for the **Super Bowl of Caring!** We are collecting donations to buy beef for the Big Spring Area Food Bank. Our goal is to provide 1 lb beef packages to each family unit that the area food bank serves. Write Super Bowl on the memo line of your donation. We will finish collecting donations on February 8th. Cash also accepted. Thanks!