**“Better Than We Had Hoped – Pt 3”**

**April-13/14, 2024**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins]Read **Luke 5:1-11.** After allowing the group time to reflect on the passage, ask them to share what most stands out to them.

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

1. Tom shared, *“In their discouragement at Jesus’ death, Peter & the other disciple’s hearts were saying: ‘I didn't think it was going to turn out like this. How about if we go back to life as it used to be, something we know about, something we can control?’”*
   1. Describe a time when you became discouraged by your unmet expectations and returned to your former way of life. How did that work for you?
2. Tom said, *“If we love Christ, we will learn to care about what Jesus cares about: people.”* He then added, *“Don’t know where to begin? Start with the people around you, but pay special attention to the poor, marginalized, oppressed, persecuted, widows, orphans, hopeless, and harassed.”*
   1. What are some of the ways that you demonstrate that you care for the people around you (family, neighbors, work, etc.)?
   2. How do you demonstrate your care for the poor, marginalized, widows, hopeless and helpless?
3. Tom taught, *“One way to stay on Jesus’ mission to fish for people is to go back and remember when you came to the cross and he bathed you in his precious blood and set you free.”*
   1. Briefly share your memory of coming to Christ and His work of grace in your life. Did that initial experience compel you to share the Gospel with others? How has that changed over the years?

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins]

* Have each person in your group share a prayer request, and then have someone pray.
* Pray for fruitfulness coming out of Easter and the new sermon series, “Better Than We Had Hoped.”
* Pray for those who made first-time commitments or recommitments to Jesus at CA’s Easter services.