

Fix Your Eyes on Jesus the Caller: "They Left Everything"

Focus Passage: Luke 5:1–11

Sermon Recap: The big idea the sermon from Luke 5:1–11 emphasized was “Jesus didn’t just want Simon Peter’s boat, Jesus wanted Simon Peter!” Jesus wasn’t just helping Simon Peter catch fish. Jesus was giving him a new identity and calling him to a greater mission. Peter gladly allowed Jesus to use his boat as a sort of amphitheater pulpit for teaching the crowd that had gathered. However, when Jesus later gave Peter instructions to take the boat out in deeper waters to cast his nets for fishing, we can only imagine that Peter would have had reservations about a carpenter telling a professional fisherman to fish in the daytime, which was not the norm. Essentially, Jesus was saying to Peter, “Will you allow me to tell you how to do your job? ... How to live your life?” Nonetheless, Peter did as Jesus directed. The result was a spectacularly large catch of fish that required help from James and John’s boat and almost sunk both vessels because of the weight of the fish-catch. Peter knew God was miraculously at work and like Jacob, Moses, Job, and Isaiah before him became intensely aware of his sinfulness in the presence of a holy God. Peter’s priorities changed after the huge catch of fish. Peter was more taken by Jesus than he was by the quantity of fish that would have been the catch of a lifetime. Jesus gave the fisherman a greater mission, saying, “from now on you will be catching men.” After their boats returned to land with the big catch, Peter and his partners “left everything and followed him” (Luke 5:11).

We can ask ourselves three questions related to Luke 5:1–11 to help us discern if we are allowing Jesus to figuratively borrow our boats or if we are giving Him our lives.

1. Am I obeying Jesus even when it doesn’t feel practical, popular, or convenient? (v.5)
2. Am I saddened by my sin? (v. 8)
3. Have my priorities changed? (v. 11)

“Jesus doesn’t just want your Sunday morning, or your tithe, or a few moments of the day, or a few kind words around the dinner table...Jesus wants you. He wants all of you ...and if you are willing to obey even when it is not practical, or popular, or convenient...and if you are willing to leave behind the catch you have been waiting for and recognize that you are a sinner in need of a savior... then you will find life.”

Interpretive Helps:

- Whereas the title “teacher” in Luke was used of Jesus only by strangers, “Master” was used only by Jesus’ followers and reveals better his authority and might. Luke also avoided completely the use of the title “Rabbi” for Jesus. [Robert H. Stein, [Luke](#), vol. 24, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 169.]

Group Gathering

Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask everyone how it went as they tried to obey what they sensed God saying to them through last weeks’ time together.

Allow the Word Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

READ Luke 5:1–20

1. How do you explain Peter's response to the huge catch of fish in Luke 5:8—Why did Peter fall at Jesus' knees and say, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" instead of "That was an amazing catch of fish"?
2. Mark 1:16–18 and Matt 4:18–22 appear to be parallel passages to Luke 5:10–11 in which Jesus speaks of turning the fishermen into fishers of men. How does the additional context about the miraculous catch of fish in Luke 5:4–9 shed light on the men's response of "immediately leaving their nets" to follow Jesus in the parallel passages?

Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. In John 14:15, Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you ask yourself, "How I am obeying the following commandments from the LORD?"
 - Save sex for marriage
 - Love you enemies
 - Submit to one another
 - Consider others better than ourselves
 - Give generously
 - Care for the orphan the widow and the immigrant
 - Practice hospitality
 - Avoid drunkenness
 - Refrain from gossip
 - To repay evil with kindness
2. Peter, Andrew, James, and John "left everything" to follow Jesus? Is there something you are having a hard time leaving behind in order to follow Jesus?

The Big Question: What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group.

Further Resources

- Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org
- Info on the Conquer Series group for men wanting to be freed from pornography. <https://wcchapel.org/grow/adult-ministry/>