

February 5, 2023

Luke 5:1-11

by Ken Weliever

“Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught,” quipped one fisherman.

Fishermen are known for their tall tales. Their exaggeration about the size of their catch. And, of course, the big one that got away.

However, can you imagine, Peter telling the story about the day Jesus went fishing with him, James and John? It may well have been the basis of a sermon years later.

Take a moment to read the text (Luke 5:1-11), and briefly consider 5 powerful lessons.

#1 When a boat becomes a pulpit.

A huge crowd was pressing in on Jesus as he taught the Word of God by the Sea of Galilee. So, He got into the boat “sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.”

The analogy wasn’t lost on J. Vernon McGee who once observed, “Every pulpit is a fishing boat, a place to give out the Word of God and attempt to catch fish.”

It also reminds us that we don’t need a formal pulpit in a church building to share God’s Word. It may be around the kitchen table. Or around a campfire. Or traveling in a car. Or flying in an airplane. Or eating in a restaurant. Make your pulpit where ever people are

hungry to hear God’s Word.

#2 Listen to Jesus when He says, “Launch out.”

Peter and co-workers had been fishing all night and caught nothing. However, Jesus said, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

Although in the beginning stages of their ministry, Peter recognized something about the authority of Jesus when he replied, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”

What a great lesson for us. Too often, we think we know more than Jesus does. We don’t see the sense in His commands. To follow them appears pointless. We may wonder, “Will it work?” We think, “I’ve tried and failed, why try again?” Sometimes, we may just flat disagree with what God says. I’ve heard people say, “I know the Bible says _____, but I feel _____.”

When such thoughts tempt our thinking, remember Peter’s response. “At Your Word, I will.”

#3 Blessed by Obeying Jesus

Launching out into the deep not only seemed pointless, but according to those who know fishing, it was the wrong location and the wrong time of day. Yet, the catch was “so great their nets were

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Our Gospel Meeting with Bubba Garner - April 2-5

Gospel Meeting - San Marcos, March 3-5

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

breaking.” In fact, they signaled a second boat to help them. They filled both boats. And the weight was so great that both boats began to sink.

Never forget that when we listen to the Lord, obey God’s Word, and by faith launch out into the deep, we are blessed beyond measure. The lyrics from R. J. Stevens’ hymn reminds us, “The Lord has been mindful of me. He blesses and blesses again.”

We enjoy “all spiritual blessings in Christ” (Eph. 1:3). Think of freedom from the bondage of sin. Peace of mind. Purpose in life. The riches of His grace. The magnitude of His mercy. The fellowship of a spiritual family. Access to the throne of the Father. Not to mention the physical and material blessings we enjoy that make life more comfortable.

#4 Seeing our own Sinfulness.

The wonder of this miraculous catch caused Peter to fall down at Jesus’ feet and exclaim, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

I doubt Peter was literally telling Jesus to leave. Rather, it was a realization of being in the presence of Deity. Of his inadequacy. His flawed humanity. And a humble admission of his sinfulness compared to Jesus’ holiness.

We, too, should emulate this example. Being in a relationship with Jesus ought not to make us feel we’re better than others, fill us with pride, or self righteousness. Rather, it should humble us. Expose our short-comings. And magnify our need of Him.

#5 Becoming Fishers of Men

As the fishermen left their trade to follow Jesus, He used this marvelous miracle as a metaphor to say, “From now on you will catch men.” Their patience, persistence and perseverance in fishing for a living would prove to be useful qualities in evangelizing the world.

While a larger lesson for another time, regardless of our profession, occupation, or trade, we ought to be “fishing for men.” Listening to Jesus. Launching out into the deep. Lowering our nets. Sharing the gospel.

Will we, like Peter, respond to Jesus, “At Your Word, I will...” ?

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Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman is having difficulties with his feet.

Doug Adair is preparing to have surgery on his back

Clay Hallmark’s father passed away.

Dinah Williams is having cataracts removed.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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