



Sunday, February 3, 2019

**Jesus: You Can Trust Him Totally- The Sinking Ships
Luke 5:1-11**

5 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, 2 and saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 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. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 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. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 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. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 and so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

My history of fishing

Trout opening morning- 10 limit

Hornpout and eels- Grammy skinned them for me

Fishing with Hank

Salt water party boats

Striper fishing with Bill and Rick

Last summer with Rick and Steve- bass fishing

There were three methods of fishing. There was **fishing by line.** There was **fishing with the casting net.** The casting net was circular, and might be as much as nine feet across. It was skillfully cast into the water from the land, or from the shallow water at the edge of the lake. It was weighted with pellets of lead round the circumference. It sank into the sea and surrounded the fishes; it was then drawn through the water as if the top of a bell tent were being drawn to land, and in it the fish were caught. That was the kind of net that Peter and Andrew, and James and John, were handling when Jesus saw them. Its name was the amphiblēstron. **The drag net** was used from a boat, or better from two boats. It was cast into the water with ropes at each of the four corners. It was weighted at the foot so that, as it were, it stood upright in the water. When the boats were rowed along with the net behind them, the effect was that the net became a great cone, and in the cone the fishes were caught and brought into the boat.

The Purpose of the People was to hear the Word of God

The Word of God is powerful!! A POWERFUL MESSAGE!!!! BE EXPECTING TO HEAR FROM GOD! Things happen with an open Bible!!!!

Wiersbe on Luke 5:1-11 - This event is not parallel to the one described in Matthew 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16-20. In those accounts, Peter and Andrew were busy fishing, but in this account they had fished all night and caught nothing and

were washing their nets. (If nets are not washed and stretched out to dry, they rot and break.) Jesus had enlisted Peter, Andrew, James, and John earlier, and they had traveled with Him in Capernaum and Galilee (Mark 1:21-39), but then they went back to their trade. Now He would call them to a life of full-time discipleship. It is possible that at least seven of the disciples were fishermen (John 21:1-3). Consider the fact that fishermen generally have the qualities that make for success in serving the Lord. It takes courage and daring, patience and determination to work on the seas; and it also takes a great deal of faith. Fishermen must be willing to work together (they used nets, not hooks) and help one another. They must develop the skills necessary to get the job done quickly and efficiently. (Bible Exposition Commentary)

Writing later in the first century, the Jewish historian Josephus estimated the population of Galilee at about three million, which allows for the vast size of the crowds that followed Jesus.). In a day when no media existed, gifted communicators drew huge crowds, and Jesus was obviously unparalleled

Peter was washing his nets and apparently having a front row seat!

9 Highlights to Ponder of the Fish Miracle

⇒ **Peter listens to Jesus** 1

He takes us where we are. He could have asked anything of Peter.

⇒ **Peter responds to Jesus** 2

Peter informs of the past but does what Jesus asked- his honest reply

You could do something 100 times that never produces results but when Jesus is ready to do a miracle it will happen on 101!! **How much we miss because we quit too soon!**

Ill.- healing, addiction, salvation-

Took a lot of effort and must have been exhausted

Some other examples of Jesus' word as command - Matthew 8:8 "just say the word, and my servant will be healed." (Luke 7:7) "They have kept Your Word." (John 17:6, Rev 3:10).

⇒ **Peter obeys Jesus 3**

If he had not done this he would have missed the miracle

Nevertheless at Your Word

The result of faith is the miracle of the fishes

Here is an example of the lavish generosity of our Lord. When he gives he does not skimp. "He giveth and giveth and giveth again." Matthew 14:20, 21; 15:37, 38

⇒ **Peter calls upon his partners 4**

They signaled to their partners...for...help - In unity there is strength.
See Esther 4:16; Philippians. 2:2

III.- hunting partners or fishing buddies

⇒ **Peter worked as a team 5**

It is imperative to understand team mentality in the Christian life! That's what the church is! Committed to a local church!!

Ephesians 4:15, 16- but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: 16 from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

⇒ **Peter reflects on himself 6**

Years ago the British agnostic Thomas Huxley had to leave early one morning to go from one speaking assignment to another, so he got into a horse-drawn taxi to go from his hotel to the train station. He assumed that the hotel doorman had told the driver of the carriage that they were to go to the train station. So when he got in, he simply said to the driver, "Drive fast." Off they went. After a short while, Huxley, who was somewhat familiar with the area, realized that they were actually going in the opposite direction from the train station. He yelled to the driver, "Do you know where you're going?" Without looking back, the driver replied, "No, sir, but I'm driving very fast." Obviously, it doesn't do much good to go fast if you're not going in the right direction! Yet, many people, even Christians, are like that. Their lives are busy, they are going full bore, but they haven't stopped to evaluate where they ought to be going. Before we know it, life has whizzed by, but we haven't spent it focused on the right purpose. As Christians, we all would agree that if we want to spend our lives properly, we must be in line with God's purpose.

⇒ **Peter worships Jesus 7**

Worshipping Jesus is not meant for Sundays only!

⇒ **Peter is astonished** 8

Why does Jesus say fear not?

Amazement (thambos) describes an emotion in which awe and fear are mingled (astonishment, amazement from admiration). We see a similar reaction to Jesus' teaching and casting out demons in Luke 4:32, 36

John MacArthur comments on these men's reaction of fear once they realized the Man Jesus was also God - Peter's response of fear and penitence is typical of those in the presence of God. Abraham described himself as "dust and ashes" (Gen. 18:27); Job humbly said, "I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye sees You; therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6); after encountering the angel of the Lord (the preincarnate Christ) Samson's father "Manoah said to his wife, 'We will surely die, for we have seen God' " (Judg. 13:22); when the Israelites "perceived the thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain [Mount Sinai] smoking ... they trembled and stood at a distance. Then they said to Moses, 'Speak to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we will die' " (Ex. 20:18-19); after seeing a vision of God in His heavenly temple, Isaiah cried out in terror, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts" (Isa. 6:5); after he saw a vision of God, Ezekiel fell on his face (Ezek. 1:28); when the apostle John saw the glorified Christ, he "fell at His feet like a dead man" (Rev. 1:17)

⇒ **Peter forsakes all and follows Jesus** 9

ILLUSTRATION - When the Spanish explorer Hernando Cortez landed at Vera Cruz, Mexico in 1519 he was intent on conquest. To assure the devotion of his men, Cortez set fire to his fleet of eleven ships! With no means of retreat Cortez's

army had only one direction to move, into the Mexican interior. Cortez understood the price of commitment—and he paid it.

Missionary statesman Hudson Taylor had complete trust in God's faithfulness. In his journal he wrote: Our heavenly Father is a very experienced One. He knows very well that His children wake up with a good appetite every morning... He sustained 3 million Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years. We do not expect He will send 3 million missionaries to China; but if He did, He would have ample means to sustain them all... Depend on it, God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply.

The riches of this world are vain,
They vanish in a day;
But sweet the treasures of God's love—
They never pass away. —Bosch

Peter's life is drastically changed

WHAT ARE WE LIVING FOR?

Money, accomplishments in job or sports,

Popularity?

Questions from R A Torrey Luke 5:1-11 - Of what was Jesus' command a test? (Compare Mark 3:5; John 2:7; 11:39; 21:6.) What was there that made the command look foolish? What was the only thing in favor of letting down the nets? Was that enough? How many objections of our reason and commonsense ought the word of Jesus to outweigh? Why did Jesus tell Peter to launch out into the deep?

How did Jesus know just where the fish were? (Ps. 8:6, 8.) What is the first thing Peter says in answer to Jesus' command? Do we ever have such thoughts arise when Jesus commands us? Is the fact that we have tried and failed any reason for stopping trying when Jesus bids us let down our nets? Suppose Peter had given way to his discouragement, what would have been the consequences? How is it when we surrender to our discouragement? What was Peter's second thought and word? What is there in Peter's reply to Jesus that would make a good motto for every Christian worker? How many of His commands will a true disciple obey? (John 2:5; 15:14.) What was the result of Peter's obedience? What always awaits the obedient? (Deut. 11:27; Is. 1:19.) When was it they enclosed the fishes? When is it always that we get the blessing? Did they get fishes enough? What does that illustrate? What did Peter do in his emergency? Is there any lesson in that? If Peter had been like a great many men what would he have done? Was there enough for both? What would always become of some of our boats if God should load them as fully as we wish? How did Peter's empty boat become so full?

Peter and James and John "had spent their lives catching fish for the purpose of killing them; now they would spend the rest of their lives catching men to give them life." (MacArthur)

1 minute take-away