

Turn to Luke 5

1. Hopefully I am speaking to a congregation that is filled with people who want to be effective for the Lord

- A. Hopefully to people who want more out of life than just what this world has to offer
- B. If so then this study is for you - in Luke 5 we see the Lord working with Peter to raise him up
- C. We will learn some valuable lessons in what that process looks like
 - 1). Those steps that are necessary for us to be who we want to be – fruitful for our King

2. Outline – five things

- A. The masters command
- B. The reluctant obedience
- C. The blessings of obedience
- D. The Master's call
- E. The cost of answering that call

Lk 5:1–11 (ESV) On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ⁽²⁾ and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ⁽³⁾ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁽⁴⁾ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, **"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."** ⁽⁵⁾ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁽⁶⁾ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁽⁷⁾ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁽⁸⁾ But 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 and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ⁽¹⁰⁾ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, **"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."** ⁽¹¹⁾ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

THE SETTING

1. Jesus is at the Lake of Gennesaret and the people begin to crowd around

- A. As usual He takes the opportunity to teach about the Kingdom of God
 - B. But to get far enough away from the crowd so they can all see Him – He gets into Peter's boat
- Transition:** He finishes speaking to the crowd and turns His attention to Peter
- A. He takes him through a process necessary for all who want to be effective for Christ
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I. THE MASTER'S COMMAND

Lk 5:4 (ESV) And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon (Peter), **"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."**

1. Jesus has more in mind than catching fish – He's working on the fisherman

- A. He's going to reveal to Peter who He is – the creator
- B. Don't miss the tool He uses – that which Peter did in his every day occupation
 - 1). God wants to reveal Himself to you in the everyday things of life – look for Him – be open

2. Jesus issues a command and Peter is left with a choice

- A. A divine command always leaves a person at this point: Obey or rationalize it away
- Transition:** You need to see this was a very tough choice for Peter
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II. THE RELUCTANT OBEDIENCE

Lk 5:5 (ESV) And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!...

1. Hear the reluctance there – I don’t want to do it – we tried

- A. **Obedying this command had a cost:** He’d fished all night
 - 1). Came in and done the hard work of washing the nets
 - 2). To go out meant this grueling task would have to be done again
- B. **It went against his understanding:** What Jesus told him went against everything he knew
 - 1). Everybody knew you didn’t catch fish on this lake in the deep during the day
On this lake you caught fish here at night in the shallows
 - 2). This was going against a lifetime of experience gained from fishing that lake
- C. **It offended his pride:** He was a professional fisherman being told by a carpenter how to fish

2. Peter experiences that internal struggle we’ve all felt at times

- A. I think his mind is searching for a reason he didn’t need to obey
“No! It doesn’t make sense. I won’t catch any fish this way and I’ll have to wash the nets again.”
- B. Like us so many times – he wants to be assured of success first before taking this risk
“I’ll look foolish going out now and fishing in the deep. This will be an epic fail”
 - 1). If I could just be assured of success – of catching fish – I’d do it – no problem
- C. But how does God measure success: Making money? A bunch of fish? People filling the pews?
 - 1). Success in God’s eyes is very simple – *just do what He tells you to do!*
 - a). Jeremiah never had one convert in his ministry – but he was successful
He will be rewarded greatly – Why? He did what God told him to do
 - 2). Many who look successful by man’s standards aren’t – they aren’t in God’s will
 - a). Many who don’t look successful by man’s standards are – doing what God told them

Point: The reason he’s struggling is his knowledge is telling him success is impossible

“Cast the net out into the deep. On the lake of Gennesaret. Everybody knows that won’t work!”

- A. He is learning the lesson that God’s knowledge is greater than his
Isa 55:8-9 (NLT) "My thoughts are completely different from yours," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. (9) *For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.*"
 - 1). He is learning when his thoughts and God’s conflict – choose God’s ways
- B. But this is one reason it takes faith to be used by God – He keeps doing things we don’t understand
 - 1). He keeps calling us into things we aren’t sure will succeed
 - 2). We have to learn that He knows what He’s doing – we can trust Him

Transition: So Peter is struggling – you hear it in his voice – obedience isn’t always easy

- A. But there is something in Jesus that commands an allegiance
 - 1). So he obeys even though it is reluctantly
Lk 5:5 (ESV) And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! *But at your word I will let down the nets.*”
- B. Can you relate – our obedience isn’t always wholehearted
 - 1). But in the next verse we find even reluctant obedience will be blessed

III. THE BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE

Lk 5:6–7 (ESV) And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁽⁷⁾ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

1. Crucial to see how important this choice to obey was

- A. Because he chose to obey he saw God move in a powerful – life changing way
 - 1). Disobedience would have blocked all that from happening

Point: Obedience is such an important issue if we want to see God moving in our life

John 14:21 (NIV) Whoever has my commands *and obeys them*, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and *show myself to him.*"

- A. Peter is living proof that will happen! That God rewards obedience with a greater view of Him!

Question: That's what we want right! To see God moving in our life!

- A. But disobedience will always bring a spiritual blindness

Is 59:1–2 (ESV) Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear; ⁽²⁾ but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, *and your sins have hidden his face from you* so that he does not hear.

- 1). The sense of God is lost in the life that won't obey God – and that cost is far too great!

2. Peter struggled but obeyed and the blessings were incredible

- A. God blessed his work – he had never caught fish like that before
- B. But beyond that Peter got a glimpse of the magnitude and majesty of Jesus Christ
 - 1). The Father showed him Jesus! This is who is in your boat with you!

Point: I'm telling you if you will obey – put God first - He will reveal Himself to you

- A. He will thrill your hearts with who He is – He will comfort you with His love
You will see Him moving in your life – providing – opening doors to be used
- B. He will come to you - I love that when you're just sitting there and God shows up
 - 1). Blessing you with a new understanding of Him – overwhelming you with His love!
- C. *If Peter had chosen disobedience he would have missed all this = the cost of disobedience*

Transition: Passed over verse quickly I want to go back too – important to this thought of obedience

The Beginning of Obedience

Lk 5:3 (ESV) Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out *a little* from the land...

1. Obedience begins in the little things – the everyday things

- A. Walking before God in your moment by moment choices
- B. Being the kind of husband – wife – father – mother – child that pleases Him
- C. Working in such a way that brings Him glory
- D. Being obedient in the basics – Bible study, prayer, fellowship

Thought: Many want the great things – but are willing to be faithful in the small things

- A. But here is a Biblical principle that none can bypass

Mt 25:21 (ESV) His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. *You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.* Enter into the joy of your master.'

- B. If you'll set God as your goal – a passionate pursuit of Him and His ways
 - 1). Faithfully living those every day affairs of life in a way that pleases Him
 - 2). You will experience the "Mores" of Christianity
 - a). More of His presence – more of His revelation of Himself to your heart
More of His peace and joy – more opportunities to serve Him – greater influence

The Masters Command • The Reluctant Obedience • The Blessings of Obedience

IV. THE BROKEN DISCIPLE

Lk 5:8–9 (ESV) But 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 and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,

1. When you get a true view of God you also get a true view of self

- A. We have a tendency of measuring ourselves by comparing ourselves to others
 - 1). False standard – I can always find somebody I'm better than at this church stuff
- B. When we get into the presence of absolute holiness and purity – that false image is shattered
 - 1). We see who we really are – we are humbled

Is 6:5 (ESV) And I said: *“Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; **for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!**”*

- a). He sees God – sees himself and the ugliness of his sin – He confesses it

Transition: Then God sends him out to be used – same thing with Peter

2. Notice the change in Peter

Pride filled Reluctance: Lk 5:5 (ESV) “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing!...”

- A. Listen Jesus we know this lake – you don't fish it during the day...

Submission: Lk 5:8 (ESV) But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”

- A. Fell at His feet = The posture of submission
- B. Called Him Lord = The title of submission
- C. Confessed his sins = The actions of submission
 - 1). You can't be used unless you deal with your sin – Peter is doing that!

Thought: Through all this Simon Peter is becoming useful to God

- A. God is stripping away self-dependence and pride – producing humility and submission

3. Notice that Jesus used that which Peter knew best to humble him

“You think you know so much about fishing. Let me show you what real fishing is!”

- A. This is such an important thought – to be usable - God must do this in our points of strength
 - 1). He must humble us at those points we think we are good at – where we are self-dependent
 - 2). We must learn He is wiser than us in all things even where we are strong
- B. The worship leader who is a good musician can rely on that instead of God
The charismatic teacher can rely on his personality instead of God
The evangelist who is a good salesman may rely on that gift of persuasion rather than God
 - 1). God will deal with those areas we feel no need of God in – He must teach us

Jn 15:5 (ESV) ... *apart from me you can do nothing.*

Thought: What a blessing when He moves us to reliance in our strong points – all things under His control

- A. Do you think that Peter ever looked at fishing in the same way again
 - 1). Now it is filled with the wonderful realization of what God can do when there is obedience
- B. Ask God to do this in every area of your life
 - 1). It is such a blessing when He enables us to let Him take over those areas
 - a). Do you think you'll be blessed more? Peter was – He'd never fished like that!
- C. Now Peter is becoming useful to the Master – Submissive and responsive

Transition: What we've seen so far

- A. We have seen the divine command
- B. We have seen the Peter's compliance – even though it was reluctant
- C. We have seen the blessings that obedience brought into Peter's life
- D. We have seen the brokenness that truly entering into the presence of God will bring
 - 1). Now that this work has been done – *there comes the call from Christ to greater service*

V. THE CALLING OF GOD

Lk 5:10 (ESV) ...And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”

1. Jesus has done a foundational work to make Peter usable

- A. It is the same work He must do in us

Transition: Now He calls him into service – the same thing He wants to do with us

2. Part of his ministry would be to “catch men”

- A. What a powerful image to send him into this ministry with – Jesus catching fish like this

- 1). I’m sure Peter thought of this many times as he evangelized
“Jesus is the master fisherman. Remember the net. Depend upon Him.”

Thought: It’s tempting to turn this into an exhortation to evangelize – something we all should be doing

- A. But I don’t think that is the point of this passage
- B. Point I want to bring out is the great work God has done in Peter’s life
- 1). Taking this ordinary fisherman and lifting him to a place of tremendous potential
- 2). How God works – ordinary people with ordinary jobs – God gets ahold of them
- a). They submit to Him – He reveals Himself to them – they are humbled and deal with sin
Then God sends them back into the place they work – or calls them into full time ministry
Empowered by Him – He uses them for His glory – their life has an impact
- C. God do that with us! Whatever it takes to make us effective for you!
- 1). When this starts happening in a church that church becomes a powerhouse
- a). When God moves – when He reveals Himself to us - When we listen and respond
When we stop closing off areas and give Him access to our lives
- 2). Then God will start calling His people into various ministries
- a). We’ve seen that – Day laborers – EV tables – Prayer booth – Spectrum – Prayer for evangelism – that is happening – that is a sign of life
- 1a). None of that came from me – it was God speaking to you – how it works!
- b). But my prayer is we will see more and more of that
- 1a). More and more ministries beginning as God speaks to His people who are listening
- 3). This is how a church spreads its wings into a community
- a). God bringing His people to life then sending them out
- b). That is happening – I’m praying it happens more – all caught up – all in

Thought: I pray none of you miss the blessings of being used by God

- A. If He can use Peter an ordinary fisherman – He can use you
- B. But he was a fisherman with a tremendous zeal for Christ – *God uses people who are obsessed with Him*
- 1). May God work a zeal into this body - a fire that spreads to the areas around us

Transition: That brings us to our last point – the cost of being used greatly

V. THE COST OF ANSWERING GODS CALL

Lk 5:11 (ESV) And when they had brought their boats to land, *they left everything and followed him.*

1. Not all of us will be called to physically leave everything to follow His call

- A. For Carri and I – We were told to leave everything and go to England
- 1). But for most the call to leave everything happens while they remain at home
- 2). This is simply the call to be yielded to Him – a call of surrender
- B. They left all their possessions – you probably won’t have to – but we must be willing if commanded

- 1). But we are all called to turn our possessions over to Him aren't we
- 2). We understand we are no longer owners – we become stewards of what He has given us
 - a). He becomes Lord of our possessions, finances, time, talents
 - b). Everything becomes His! I'll show you in a minute why this is great!

2. Found a story that clearly shows us the attitude behind this cost

(The Call To Discipleship, by Juan Carlos Ortiz)

The Bible says the kingdom of God is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of real worth, he sells everything he has and buys that pearl. Of course, according to traditional thinking, man is the pearl of great price and Jesus the merchant who sells everything to make the purchase. Now I understand that He is the pearl of great price and man the merchant. So when man finds Jesus, it costs him everything. Jesus has happiness, joy, peace, healing, security, eternity. Man marvels at such a pearl and says, "I want this pearl. How much does it cost?"

The seller says, "It's too dear, too costly."

"But how much?"

"Well, it's very expensive."

"Do you think I could buy it?"

"Oh, of course. Anybody can."

"But you say it's too expensive. How much is it?"

"It costs everything you have--no more, no less--so anybody can buy it."

"I'll buy it"

"What do you have? Let's write it down."

"I have \$10,000 in the bank."

"Good, \$10,000. What else?"

"I have nothing more. That's all I have."

"Have you nothing more?"

"Well, I have some dollars here in my pocket."

"How many?"

"I'll see: 30, 40, 50, 80, 100, 120--120 dollars."

"That's fine. What else do you have?"

"I have nothing else. That's all."

"Where do you live?"

"I live in my house."

"The house too."

"Then you mean I must live in the garage?"

"Have you a garage, too? That too. What else?"

"Do you mean that I must live in my car, then?"

"Have you a car?"

"I have two."

"Both become mine. Both cars. What else?"

"I have nothing else."

"Are you alone in the world?"

"No, I have a wife, two children...."

"Your wife and your children too. What else?"

"I have nothing else, I am left alone now."

"Oh, you too. Everything. Everything becomes mine: wife, children, house, garage, cars, money, clothing, everything. And you too. Now you can use all those things here but don't forget they are mine, as you are. When I need any of the things you are using you must give them to me because now I am the owner."

A. I don't like that! Sorry – probably shouldn't have chosen Christianity then

- 1). But if you truly get what is happening here you'll see what a sweet deal it is
- 2). You'll be enabled to rest like never before - why?

a). He owns everything including you – It's His responsibility to take care of His possessions

B. It's like renting a house – when something happens we call the owner "Your house is broken"

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- 1). Then we rest – it's not our problem – they call out the plumber etc. and they pay for it
 - C. When our life is given over to God – then He is the owner – He is responsible
 - 1). We get an unexpected bill – no panic – just hand it over to Him
Can't wait to see how you pay this one
 - a). I can tell you from experience – you will see Him move in incredible ways
 - 2). Here's your verse that produces incredible rest and peace – my life verse
Mt 6:33 (ESV) *seek first* the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Put everything into His hands – surrender it to Him), and *all these things will be added* to you.
 - a). All what things – all you need to live – every necessity – it is His problem
 - b). He is my shepherd who has taken on the responsibility of taking care of me
 - 1a). All I have to be is His sheep – hear His voice and follow! Simple
 - 2a). Sheep with a good shepherd never had to worry – everything would be taken care of
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CONCLUSION

1. What can we learn from Peter so we don't miss it

- A. We need to be obedient in the little things – obedience is to sweep through our whole life
 - 1). When we begin to live like that God will move us from the shallows to the depths
Where we will see God in a very real way
 - 2). In that revelation of God to our hearts and minds we will be thrilled and humbled
 - a). We will be awe struck and broken
 - b). We will begin to lose that self-dependence and become more God dependent
 - c). We will become responsive to God and He will begin to guide us into His purposes
 - 3). But part of answering that call will be a willingness to see God as the owner of it all
 - a). What a deal! You get God in a very real way – He gets your junk
 - b). You stop worrying – striving – just be a sheep and rest in the good shepherd's care
Ps 23:1–2 (ESV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. ⁽²⁾ He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.
 - 1a). I love the assurance of the lamb – thank you God your taking care of everything