

Are you willing to fish? Luke 5

Pat – pray

Read story immediately.....(Taken from People Sharing Jesus, Darrell Robinson)

This morning I want to ask each and every one of you to begin preparing for a fishing trip.....

We are going to do that by continuing through our series from the Cradle to the Grave....

This morning, Jesus is going to call his disciples to fish (and he does so from a rather odd group....fishermen)

Now.....yes, he is calling the original twelve to fish.....let me be clear....he is calling you to fish as well

So as we read, do so with that in mind....

Lets read **Luke 5:1-11**

The crowds following Jesus are getting larger and larger.....the rock star that is Jesus, his name is growing

The people that hear him, they see his miracles.....they want a piece of the action....

Up to this point he is all alone in ministry....

He has been kicked out of his own home town, he moved on to capernaum.....

And now the crowds v.1 are literally beginning to press in on him.....the crowds are getting so large.....

And as they do, Jesus begins to call men who he will teach to fish....as in, Jesus is going to change the world by teaching common, every day men, to become fishers of men....

Lets look at where he is.....he is at the lake of Gennesaret.....Sea of Galilee.....it was the fishing capital of the world

The men fishing here were expert fishermen and would ship fish all throughout the Roman empire....among them are Peter, James and John.....3 really boisterous manly fishermen

**v.2** he sees 2 boats on the shore.....nobody is in them.....Luke records that these men were washing their nets....

The way they would fish.....big huge nets.....they would sink, whatever they brought up.....

So the men when they came in from fishing would wash the nets.....remove all the sand, seaweed, rocks.....

They had to take great care of their nets.....it was their livelihood.....they were busy.....when Jesus asks them to get into the boat and push out.....

**v.3** so the scene here, is Jesus is teaching from the boat (b/c the crowds were pushing on him).....and he is in Peters boat teaching to the shoreline....

Whats really going on here is one of the first object lessons (you all know what an object lesson is right?)

Because as he is done, he tells Peter.....push out deep.....

Peter was a bit of a hothead, and he like gnawing on his foot.....so when Jesus tells him to go deep he has a little of a “who do you think your talking to” reply.....

And then tells Peter let your nets out.....what is Peter thinking?

I’ve been washing nets all night.....we didn’t catch anything.....and now this teacher from the synagogue is going to come tell me how to fish....

**v.5.** look at Peters response.....at your command I will.....sometimes we know we are supposed to do something....but.....not really sure why.....

**v.6.** look at what happens.....the nets are so heavy with fish....they start breaking.....

Peter had just spent the entire day fishing.....NOTHING

5 mins with Jesus in a boat and the fish come in abundance....

Not just one boat.....but two boats FULL.....to the point of sinking (v.7)

Now....in case you aren’t following here...this story is meant to be awe inspiring.....Theopholis would have known that these fisherman would not normally catch this much fish....

But at Jesus’ word.....the boats are sinking there is so much fish in them....

To really understand the gravity of what is going on here, all we have to do is look at Peter’s response.....

**v.8** – depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord.....

what did Peter notice here.....Holiness, this man is something diff.....he is so struck by the grace that Jesus shows him here that the only response he can muster is a recognition of his own sinfulness....

That’s what being in the presence of holiness does.....being in the presence of holiness should cause us to become undone by our sin.....

Being in the presence of God should cause a sense of fear to come over those of us who are sinful.....why, because holiness exposes who we really are.....

We sing about it all the time.....amazing grace, how sweet. The sinner, that saved a “WRETCH”

But look at Jesus’ response....**v.10** – do not be afraid.....why was he afraid.....he was in the presence of Holiness.....yes you are in the presence of holiness.....but don’t be afraid.....

Why weren’t they to be afraid.....b/c Jesus is getting ready to do something amazing with them....b/c from now on you will be catching men.....

Don’t be afraid b/c I am going to make you holy too.....

And Luke concludes this section with v. 11 telling us that when they got to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.....

Notice what they didn't do.....they just left their catch, they didn't even go wash their nets.....

I want to talk about some application real quick.....because it's important in our development.....

**1. When we realize who Jesus is, we will respond!**

You cannot meet Jesus face to face and be indifferent.....

**2. When we realize who Jesus is, nothing else is important**

- a. Notice what they left behind – all of the fish.....literally months of pay
- b. The nets – their livelihood
- c. But more than that.....they left everything

**3. You can't be a follower of Jesus and not be a fisherman**

Now, I began this morning with a story about fishermen....and I want to reread you the last line again....

"is a person a fisherman, if year after year....he does never fish".....or better still.....is one really following if he isn't fishing"

Musicians

The past few weeks we've been announcing Invite Your One – for our response time this morning, I want everyone to take out their invite your one card.....

Would you respond this morning by committing to be a fisherman – would you write down the name of the person you are going to invite to church during our response time

While Pat and our praise team lead us in song, will you pray for that person.....

When you are finished, put that bookmark in your bible, in your wallet, wherever you will remember it....and let's get to being fisherman