

Text: Luke 5:1–11 *And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed [crowded] upon him [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret [also called the Sea of Galilee], And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him [asked] that he would thrust out a little from the land [put the boat a short distance out into the lake]. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left [finished] speaking, he said unto Simon, "Launch [your boat] out into the deep [part of the lake], and let down your nets for a draught [to catch some fish]." And Simon answering said unto him, "Master, we have toiled [been fishing] all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net." And when they [Peter & his helpers] had this done, they inclosed [caught] a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake [fishing nets were torn]. And they beckoned unto their partners [called the other fishermen], 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. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught [catch] of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also [along with Simon Peter were] James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, "Fear not; from henceforth [from now on] thou shalt catch men." And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all [left everything], and followed him.*

I. Introduction

A. Current trying times

1. New vocabulary for these times such as pandemic, social distancing, non-essential
2. Who decides what workers are "essential?"
 - a. Majority of non-essential workers have college degree
 - b. Majority of essential workers do not have college degree
3. In God's economy, all of us are servants and all are essential.

B. Every person in this world is essential to God. Consider Simon Peter:

1. Peter was a simple fisherman
 - a) He lived in Capernaum next to Sea of Galilee
 - b) Skilled man in working-class area
 - c) No formal education (Acts 4:13), bold, devout
 - d) God recorded details of his daily life for 3 years in all 4 gospels
2. But Jesus knew Peter's worth to God

II. Empathy of Jesus

A. Compassion of Jesus

1. Huge crowds followed Jesus to listen to His teaching
2. Jesus taught the crowds because He loved them

B. Communication by Jesus

1. Jesus sits in the boat a short distance from the shore so the whole crowd could hear Him
2. This was not Jesus' first time seeing Simon Peter. He originally met Jesus where John baptized Jesus

a. Andrew introduces his brother Simon to Jesus

John 1:40-42 One of the two which heard John [the Baptist] speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah [Messiah], which is, being interpreted [means the same as], the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him [looked at Andrew's brother], he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona [Jonah]: thou shalt be called Cephas¹, which is by interpretation, A stone.

b. Jesus renames Simon (means "hearing", or "one who hears") to Cephas/Peter (rock).

C. Condescension of Jesus

1. "Condescension" is old theology term meaning that God came down from heaven
 - a. Popular meaning is about person thinking that they are superior to you
 - b. But Jesus is Son of God in heaven who came down to earth as Son of Man

Philippians 2:7 But made himself of no reputation [emptied Himself], and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men

John 1:14 And the Word [Jesus] was made flesh [human], and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2. Jesus came to earth with particular work to do

Luke 4:43 And he [Jesus] said unto them [the crowds that followed Him], I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent [that is why I was sent].

¹ Both Cephas (Syriac language) and Peter (Greek language) mean rock (or stone), about the size of a rock you could pick up and throw.

3. True Christian spirit of humility

Philippians 2:5 *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

James 4:10 *Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*

III. Encouragement of Jesus

A. Leave human wisdom

1. Usual fishing practices to catch fish at night in shallow water next to shore
2. After preaching to crowds, Jesus tells Peter to fish in deep water in middle of lake in daylight hours
 - a. Experienced fisherman don't go fishing contrary to fish habits
 - b. But Peter trusted Jesus' command – why?
 - i. Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law who lived with his family
Luke 4:38–39 *And he [Jesus] arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for [asked Jesus to heal] her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto [served] them.*
 - ii. Peter had a living faith in Jesus, rather than a dead faith
James 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*
 - iii. Peter and the experienced fishermen with him understood that the catch of fish was nothing short of a miracle.
 - iv. Jesus (trained as a carpenter) showed He had power over the subject that Peter knew best: fishing

B. Believe Jesus' word

1. Peter believes Jesus
 - a. Peter believes Jesus' has a reason for telling him to do this.
 - b. Peter initially lets down only one net into the water, verse 5
 - c. After that net fills with fish, other nets are used, and quickly fill and are in danger of breaking
 - d. Peter had to motion for his fellow fishermen to come help haul in the fish
 - e. Both boats so overloaded that they began to sink
2. Belief in Jesus' word
 - a. Peter understood he was in the presence of a holy Man who could even control these fish, and knew he didn't deserve to be in His presence, verse 8

- b. Satan uses tactics of discouragement & fear to deflect belief. Nobody is 'good enough' for Jesus, but He invites all to come to Him (Matthew 11:28)
- 3. Consider the example of Jairus' belief in Jesus' word to heal his daughter

Mark 5:35-36 *While he [Jesus] yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain [a man] which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid [that your daughter is dead], only believe.*

IV. The Essentiality of Peter

A. When Peter had faith In Jesus

1. Peter's testimony of his belief

1 Peter 1:3–4 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again [given us new birth] unto a lively [living] hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away [will never wear out], reserved in heaven for you,*

- a. Written towards end of his life
 - b. Christian essential belief
 - i. Christian has living hope by Jesus coming alive back from the dead
 - ii. Christian's inheritance is reserved in heaven
 - c. Christian viewpoint in life
 - i. Christian worth found in Christian new birth
 - ii. Christian journey of faith to allow God to use us to do His work
 - d. Remember that Andrew his brother first introduced Peter to Jesus.
 - e. Example of Edward Kimball who was carpet salesman – carpet sales was his vocation but Jesus was his calling²
- ##### 2. Christian faith spread by telling your testimony & quoting God's Word
- Romans 10:17 *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

² Edward Kimball led Dwight L. Moody to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ in a shoe store in Chicago, Illinois. Moody became a worldwide evangelist and led, among many others, a man name F. B. Meyer (a London pastor) to faith, who led J. Wilbur Chapman (evangelist and hymnwriter) to faith, who led Billy Sunday (a major-league baseball player and later an evangelist) to faith. Billy Sunday led a man named Mordecai Ham (an early radio evangelist) to faith, who led Billy Graham to faith.

B. When Peter followed Jesus

1. Humility: Peter is an example of true disciple of Jesus
 - a. He was humble by falling down at Jesus' feet
 - b. He saw himself as a sinful man
2. Steadfast: Peter followed Jesus the rest of his life
 - a. Peter never forgot the size of fish catch
 - b. Peter was always at Jesus' side
3. Fruitful: Jesus called Peter, James, and John from their vocation (fishermen) to their new calling to serve God by sharing His gospel
 - a. Jesus called them "fishers of men"
 - b. They all left everything to follow Jesus permanently

V. Conclusion: new life only found in Son of God

1 John 5:12 *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*