

Luke 5:1-11

Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret;

1. Some translations say as the crowd was pressing in on Jesus
2. So we have this picture of people getting close to Jesus
 - a. Pressing around Him
 - b. Pressing in on Him
3. They are pressing around or in on the Living Word of God in order to hear the written word of God.

The 2 are really inseparable...You don't love Jesus, but despise His Word and you don't love the Word if you ignore the Jesus of that Word.

1. The reason they were pressing in on Him and seeking to be close to Him was to hear the Word of God
2. And...the reason we get into the Word of God is to press closer into Jesus.
3. PLUS 1: read, memorize, d-group, gather together.

2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

1. Notice that the boats had been docked
2. the fisherman had left the boats
3. They were in the process of cleaning up their nets
4. It was quitting time.

3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat.

1. We don't know exactly what Jesus said or how long He said it.
2. That is not the point.
3. He had another point to make...a visible, unforgettable point.

4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

1. Jesus is not a fisherman.
2. Jesus was a carpenter...and he is giving fishing instructions to the professional fishermen?
3. It would be like someone who builds houses for a living trying to give advice to a shrimp boat captain.

5 Simon answered and said, "Master; we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets."

1. They had left their boats, washed their nets, fished all night and for nothing!
2. Jesus, who is no fisherman, waits until they have fished, docked, exited, and cleaned up to say go back out to sea.
3. Clearly, Peter's response shows that he has come to recognize Jesus as far more than a carpenter...Master...I will.
4. So He obeys

6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

1. They had just taken in their biggest haul ever!
 - a. Earlier they were going home with nothing but discouragement.
 - b. Now they are going home with the biggest payday they have likely ever had!
2. You would think Peter would be rejoicing and trying to bring Jesus on to the team!
3. Imagine how much money could be made with Jesus commanding the fishermen and the fish?
4. But he does not respond like a televangelist...He responds with a broken and a contrite heart.
Go away! I am too sinful.
 - a. Have you been especially blessed by God?
 - b. The blessings of God should not cause pride in us, but cause us to see our unworthiness more and more....and it might mean He is getting ready to use you!

8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which 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 fear, from now on you will be catching men."

1. Jesus looks directly at Simon and says, "do not fear."
2. From now on...you are going to catch men.
 - a. Wait Jesus...I am on top of my career.
 - b. This is kind of a high point.
 - c. Do you mean that I am supposed to hang up my nets and go after men?

11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

1. Jesus spoke directly to Peter, but "they" brought their boats to land.
2. They left everything
3. They followed Him.

This is a well known passage of Scripture because it is where we get the phrase "fishers of men." PLUS 1: Who's Your One? NEXT WEEK! Invite someone!...especially on Easter Sunday! Be a fisher of men.

We learn from this text that if we are to be fisher's of men we need to

I. Be available to Jesus v1-3

Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; 2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat.

1. He is not asking You to be perfect!
2. He is expecting you to be available.
3. Isaiah 6:1-8....Woe is me....Here am I! Send me.

II. Listen to and Obey Jesus v4-7

4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets." 6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; 7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

1. Imagine how many fish we could catch with Jesus directing the fishermen and the fish!
2. Imagine how many souls we could save with Jesus directing the fishermen and the fish!
3. John 15:1-5 *I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. 5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

III. Live Repentantly v8-10a

8 But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Repentance is foundational to the Christian life

1. John the Baptist came preaching "repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
2. Jesus came preaching, "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," "repent and believe the gospel," and "except you repent you will all likewise perish."
3. Peter preached on pentecost, "repent and be baptized."
4. Paul preached that men everywhere should repent, turn to God, and do works proving repentance!

Do you see a theme here?

1. Sadly, for decades repentance was never mentioned in SBC churches
2. Sadly, when it began being mentioned, it was treated as a one time response at the point of conversion
3. But, any time and every time we are amazed by Christ, we should fall before Him with a repentant heart. Think about that!

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, "repent," he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance. Martin Luther

IV. Follow Him v10b-11

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Do not fear Simon!

1. I know you are a sinful man
2. I know you will sin tomorrow, deny me 3 times, and get caught up in church division and factions.
3. But fear not, I choose you! Come follow me.

Luke 9:23 *And He said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."*

Have you? GOSPEL

1. We want to appeal to you this morning to follow Jesus!
2. And when you do, we will make you fisher's of men.