

Oct 17, 2015

Luke 5:1-11

Welcome to Cornerstone: Make Jesus Followers

Copyright Jonathan M. Romig

Introduction:

1. Have you ever have a friend who changed your life?
2. In college there was a guy who sat in the back of my finance class.
3. One day Klint and I ended up in the same study group (acquaintance to friend).
4. My usual routine was to go to class, go study, maybe go to a college club or Bible study, then go home.
5. But Klint broke my routine... he invited me over to hangout, watch a movie, talk about God.
6. He invited me into his friend group, his church, his life.
7. After college he visited me in DC and we climbed Long's Peak in CO together.
8. One winter he convinced me to camping in a cave on December 28th right before a snow storm.
9. He wasn't content to let me just live my life, he made sure that I lived a good story.
10. Have you ever had a friend who came into your life and asked you to do something kind of crazy?
11. A man named Peter had a friend named Jesus who was asked him to do something kind of crazy.
12. Peter had more to gain than fond memories or frostbite, he had a whole new life to gain.
13. Jesus message to Peter was crazy, "Leave yourself and follow me."
14. Today Jesus is offering to come into your life with a similar offer.
15. Leave yourself and follow me, follow Jesus.

(Is it worth it to follow Jesus? How can we know if we've met him?)

(I hope that as we look at Peter's story, you'll hear Jesus calling you too.)

I. Jesus calls Peter with a simple request (**read Luke 5:1-3**)

A. Jesus asks Peter if he can use his boat. (v.1-3)

1. Peter was a fisherman from Capernaum off the freshwater sea of Galilee (13 x 8 miles).
2. One day Peter is down by the shore washing, stretching, and drying his nets (reeds, shells, trash).
3. Jesus comes along and interrupts Peter in the midst of his tasks.
4. He asks Peter to borrow his boat so he can teach the crowds (Peter obliges).
5. Jesus speaks the "word of God" (v.1) but we're not told what he taught.
6. He is not really there for the crowd; he is there for Peter.

(Jesus has a way of interrupting our lives in the midst of our busyness.)

(Jesus does more than interrupt Peter's life, he takes control.)

II. Jesus moves from a polite request to a gentle command (**read Luke 5:4**)

A. Jesus tells Peter to push out into deep water. (v.4)

1. Jesus is invading Peter's life and area of expertise (Jesus is a carpenter).
2. He is telling Peter to trust him with his life, to obey him.
3. Obedience is **going** and **doing** what Jesus says (go into deep water, do let down the nets).
4. Every relationship with Christ begins with deciding if we're willing to obey him.

B. If you were to ask me when I put my faith in Jesus, I'd tell you it was when I was four.

1. I knelt down beside my mom and told God I would love and serve him forever.
2. But if you ask me when I got serious about obeying Jesus, I'd tell you it was when I was 17.
3. In my teen years, I did my life my way for about 2 years (partying, alcohol, pornography).
4. I got caught up in thinking I was the master of my own life.
5. But one day Jesus came along and told me to obey him.

III. Peter is struck by doubt but he still obeys (**read Luke 5:5**)

- A. Peter doesn't really believe but he does listen to Jesus. (v.5)
1. He calls Jesus "Master" which means rabbi, foreman, overseer, or someone who is in charge.
 2. Peter believes Jesus is a good teacher, and that he can do amazing things, but he still doubts.
 3. Jesus healed his mother-in-law and he's already heard Jesus teach.
 4. Either because he knows Jesus is special or he owes him, Peter obeys.

IV. Peter experiences Jesus' power firsthand (**read Luke 5:6-7**)

- A. Peter goes out expecting to catching nothing and catches a great multitude. (v.6-7)
1. Their freshly cleaned nets begin to fray and snap there's so many tilapia, carp, and sardines.
 2. The boat I'm most familiar with is the green three-person canoe I grew up using in Colorado.
 3. In the late 80s, archeologists found a fishing boat near Capernaum.
 4. It was made of cedar and oak and was 26.5 feet long, 7.5 feet wide, and 4.5 feet deep (holds ton).
 5. Since those numbers are hard to imagine, I'm going to use a tape-measure to measure the boat.

(Are you starting to see how big a miracle Jesus performed?)

- B. What miracle does Jesus need to perform in your life for you to trust him?
1. Jesus probably doesn't need to fill your minivan with tilapia.
 2. But maybe he needs to save your relationship, your career, your family.
 3. We often approach God saying, "If you'll do this for me, I'll obey you."
 4. Jesus approaches Peter the opposite way, "If you'll obey me, I'll show you I'm trustworthy."

(How does Jesus impact Peter?)

V. Peter confesses Jesus' lordship and his own sin (**read Luke 5:8-10a**)

- A. Peter realizes he's in the presence of God.
1. He falls down knee-deep in fish and says, "Depart from me! I'm sinful."
 2. He realizes he's not just in the presence of a "master" or "rabbi" but in the presence of his "Lord"
 3. The OT translates God's Hebrew name "Yahweh" into the English "Lord" almost 5k times.
 4. Peter recognizes that Jesus has the very power of the God who parted the red sea.
 5. Not only is Peter amazed, he's humbled, he sees his own disobedient heart.

(If you don't know God, Peter's example can become your story.)

(God wants us to recognize Jesus as our "Lord" and our "Savior.")

(Jesus doesn't listen to Peter, he doesn't go away... he won't leave you either.)

VI. Jesus calls Peter to come and follow him. (read Luke 5:10b-11)

A. Jesus tells Peter to not be afraid. (v.10b)

1. He comforts Peter the same way angels told Zachariah and Mary not to be afraid.
2. Jesus just proved Peter can trust and obey him and it terrifies Peter.
3. When we meet God for the first time, really meet him, it's terrifying.

(I've only met one movie star, and I was totally star struck and little terrified.)

(I was working in Estes Park when Gimli the Dwarf asked me where he could find a bookshop.)

(I felt shock and fear as I came face to face with someone who lived in my imagination.)

(I remember mumbling to John Rhys-Davies to go down the street to find the book shop.)

4. Our God is not a god of the imagination, but one who reveals himself through Jesus Christ.
5. When we realize Jesus is God and has power over everything, it's scary.
6. We realize we're not God and we're not in control.

B. Jesus also tells Peter to follow him.

1. He tells him he'll make him a fisher of men.
2. In Luke 5 Peter catches a great multitude of fish, and in Acts 2 he catches 3k for Christ.
3. For Peter, following Jesus meant preaching the message of Jesus to the ancient world.
4. Some of us are called into ministry, for others we're called to live our careers for Jesus.

(Following Jesus comes at a cost.)

C. Peter leaves himself to follow Jesus. (v.11)

1. The big idea of this message is, "Leave yourself and follow Jesus."
2. Peter and James and John just took in the biggest catch of their lives.
3. It would probably make them wealthy or at least very popular and they leave it all behind.
4. The word for "follow" also means "obey"—to be Jesus' disciple is to "follow" or "obey" him.
5. As you encounter Jesus, will you follow him or will you keep mending your nets?

Conclusion:

1. Our mission as a church, is to help people find Jesus everywhere we are.
2. We define **Vision** as what we want to become and accomplish.
3. We define **Mission** as how we carry out our vision.

Vision: A gospel-centered church that changes lives through sharing the message of Jesus Christ in word and deed

Mission: To make, mature, and multiply followers of Jesus

1. This is what we're doing as a church to try and follow Jesus, but what are you doing?
2. What do you need to leave behind to follow him?
3. Maybe it means repenting of your sin and confessing Jesus is Lord for the first time.
4. Maybe it means being more honest about your faith with your coworkers and friends.
5. Leave yourself and follow Jesus.

Matthew 16:24 “Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (NIV)