

The calling of the disciples

Preached: Sunday, April 7 2019

Introduction

- Want to look at a familiar passage - Jesus calling his first disciples
- From their call - I want to make application to us today

Text

**Luke 5:1-11 (ESV)* (1) 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.*

Comments

- This is before they were disciples
- He's in Galilee - where he spent much of his ministry

Message

He used them where they were

- First observation - Jesus had a job for them right where they were!
- He asks to borrow their boat.
- He didn't make them disciples, send them to seminary, wait until they could pass some credentialing test - he began to use them immediately
- Your path to a greater ministry begins with obedience where you are!

- **Application:** I think sometimes we fail to hear - follow - obey because we think the call of the Lord looks a certain way

He didn't wait for a 'convenient' time

- From the story we can infer this wasn't a great time
- **Luke 5:5** - They'd been out all night and caught nothing
- **Luke 5:2** - They were washing their nets
- We know the story, and don't really consider the circumstances - but they were exhausted and probably discouraged. They just wanted to get home and get to bed!
- Jesus borrows their boat - making them wait . He literally just walks into the boat belonging to Peter and asks that Peter row him out a bit!
- It was Peter's boat - he could have refused, but he didn't
- See **Luke 5:4** - when he had finished speaking. Who knows how long that took! But, Peter (and his companions) heard him teach/preach! Peter at least had a front row seat.
- **Point:** The master doesn't all when it's convenient to us! How many times have I missed the opportunity he's placed before me
- **Observe** The first test - whether we'll yield our agenda to his!

He asked them to do something foolish

- Here comes the next test of obedience - ***Luke 5:4 (ESV)* (4)** *And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."*
- Peter alludes to it ***Luke 5:5 (ESV)* (5)** *And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."*
- **Point:** Jesus will always lead us to do what feels foolish! We must learn to trust that he is smarter than we are
- **Observe** The second test - whether we'll submit our intellect/understanding to him

They obeyed

- See the end of v5 *But at your word...*
- This is what discipleship is - it is obedience – because he said so
- We call Him Lord, we must learn to do as he commands! He knows what's best
- This is the point of the message, of our existence
- We are always being called to obedience
- **Note:** Disobedience is a lack of faith!
- **Note:** Obedience is faith - trusting Him

Obedience brought blessing

- Because of their obedience they experienced a miracle
- Note it's after **Luke 5:6** their obedience the miracle comes

- It's so much it breaks their nets, and starts to sink their boat
- I'm assuming this was more fish than they've ever caught!
- See [Luke 5:9](#) - they're astonished at the catch of fish!
- **Point:** God's got miracles in store - when we trust him and obey

Obedience brought revelation

- See **Luke 5:8-9 (ESV)* (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,*
- They now realize something more about Jesus
- We've become content with Him - we need greater revelation
- Object of our prayers
- Search the word through the NT - we need revelation!
- **Note:** Lack of revelation - people sin - see [Prov 29:18](#)
- It inspired fear/awe!
- It revealed their sinfulness - when we're not aware of our sin, we've not been in his presence

They received a new calling

- From here Jesus calls them to be his disciples - *fish for men*
- He'd proved he could provide for them (see this catch)
- Note again their obedience **Luke 5:11 (ESV)* (11) And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*
- **Thought** Instead of condemning them, he called them!

Applications

The need for light

- See the hunger of the people for the word [Luke 5:1](#)
- This nation needs a fresh revelation. See **Prov 29:18 (ESV)* (18) Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.*
- Jesus called them to send them as lights, salt, fishers of men
- We need that today

The call

- God knows where you are and what you're doing
- He has a bigger plan for your life than you're experiencing now
- Working on a series from Paul's statement **Phili 4:11 (ESV)* (11) Not that I am speaking of*

being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

- Learning to be content includes knowing we're doing what God has called us to do!

Obedience

- Want Gods blessing - obey
- Praying for revelation - obey! See Him in a new way

#Sermons/Preached