



Sermon Discussion Questions

February 4, 2024

Jesus in Galilee

FOLLOWING & FISHING

Luke 5:1-11

1. **Opening Discussion Questions** (in a group setting you will probably only want to do one of these questions)
 - a. Even if you don't like to go fishing you have probably heard a tall-tale fish story or two – perhaps the account of the “one that got away” where the fish gets bigger every time the story is told. Share either your best fishing experience or the most amazing fish tale (not tail) you've heard.
 - b. There is an old proverb: “If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day; if you teach him to fish you feed him for a lifetime.” How have you seen this played out in your life or in the life of someone you know? What are some of the assumptions that must apply for this proverb to be true? In what situations do you think it is your responsibility to teach someone to fish?
 - c. Sometimes we are asked to do something that just seems counterintuitive. Perhaps it is a task that you were not qualified to perform or maybe it was something that seemed so undignified that you were hesitant to do it. Describe such an experience. Did you end up doing what was asked? Were you successful? What were the primary factors that influenced your decision to either do or not do what you were asked?

2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. Moved by Jesus, Simon and His Friends Enter a Life of Following and Fishing.
 - i. Jesus uses Simon's boat as a teaching platform.
 - ii. Simon is profoundly moved by Jesus' power.
 - iii. Jesus invites Simon and his friends into the future with Him.
- b. Are You Following Jesus?
 - i. Simon and his friends left everything to follow Jesus.
 - ii. Are you truly following Jesus?
- c. Are You Fishing for People?
 - i. Simon and his friends devoted their lives to fishing for people.
 - ii. Are you actively fishing for people?

3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. *Sunday Afternoon* – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to prayerfully ponder these questions:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?

- iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?
 - iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday** – *Moved by Jesus, Simon and His Friends Enter a Life of Following and Fishing*
- i. Read the sermon's focal passage, Luke 5:1-11, carefully and in a couple of translations if possible.
 1. Make a list of every detail you can find in Luke's description of the event.
 - a. Which details do you feel are the most important to understanding the event?
 - b. Why do you think Luke provided so much detail? Were there any details left out that you would like to know?
 2. Then make a list of the steps through which Jesus takes Simon Peter to persuade him to leave everything and follow Him.
 - a. Why do you think these steps were necessary instead of going directly to the command to follow?
 - b. At which step can you identify with Peter and why?
 - ii. There is disagreement about whether this event is the same as recorded in Matthew 4:18–22 and Mark 1:16–20 describing Jesus' first encounter with these fishermen. Read these accounts.
 1. What differences do you see?
 2. If these are two different events, what does it tell us about Simon Peter and his friends? What they did after being called? How does it make their response to Jesus more relatable to our experience?
 3. If these are in fact the same event, what does it tell us about Simon Peter and his friends? How does it show more of the power and providence of God at work?
- c. **Tuesday** – *Jesus uses Simon's boat as a teaching platform.*
- i. Again, read the entire focal passage but today concentrate on the first three verses.
 1. To you, what stands out most in these three verses?
 2. What time of day does it seem that this event is taking place?
 3. What is Jesus focused on doing and what is the response?
 - ii. The main emphasis of the focal passage is still to come and ends with the calling of Peter, but wouldn't you like to know what Jesus was teaching?

Again, it may not be the same event but read Matthew 13:1-9. In what ways would you see this parable in Matthew being an appropriate message before calling disciples?

- iii. What were Simon and the other fishermen doing? How do you think Simon might have felt when Jesus asked him to take the boat out? What would it have meant to Peter pursuing his livelihood? His leisure?
- iv. Unlike our society where we generally expect our preachers to stand, verse 3 tells us He “sat down and taught”. This seems to be a favorite style for Jesus; see Matthew 5:1-2, 15:29, Mark 9:35, Luke 4:20, John 4:6, and 8:2.
 - 1. What does this suggest to you about how Jesus taught? His style?
 - 2. What, if any, relationship do think this may have with what we are told in Mark 16:19?

d. Wednesday – Simon is profoundly moved by Jesus' power.

- i. Today, as you read the focal passage pay particular attention to verses 4-10a.
 - 1. When did the events of these verses begin? What does that suggest about Jesus' priorities? What is the relationship of God's Word to the calling of disciples – then and now? See Romans 10:17 and 1 Thessalonians 2:13.
 - 2. Put yourself in Peter's place. You've worked all night and your final tasks before a much-deserved rest have been interrupted, and now a carpenter is telling you, a fisherman, how to fish.
 - a. What thoughts do you think may have gone through his mind?
 - b. As he answered Jesus what do you think his tone might have been?
 - c. Peter prefaces his response with the title “Master” (which Luke uses instead of Rabbi in his gospel because of his emphasis on writing for the Gentiles). At that point in the day how serious do you think he was about Jesus being Master?
- ii. Some believe the miracle that occurred was just Jesus knowing where the fish were – others that Jesus miraculously brought the fish into the net. Which do you think is true? Regardless of which you believe does it change the significance of the miracle? What do both interpretations tell us about Jesus?

e. Thursday – Jesus invites Simon and his friends into the future with Him.

- i. Peter's response in verse 8 is similar to that of Isaiah when he encounters the Lord. Read Isaiah 6:1-5.
 - 1. What did Peter have to understand about Jesus in order to respond in this manner?
 - 2. How does the new title he uses, instead of Master, at the end of verse 8 show his changed view of Jesus?

3. What do Isaiah and Peter's response suggest about how we should respond when we encounter God in our lives? What must we acknowledge?
 - ii. What is notably different about Jesus' call of Peter in this passage and that which is recorded in Matthew 4:19 and Mark 1:17? What is added and what is left off?
 - iii. What was the response of the fishermen who had just had the catch of a lifetime? What does it seem they did with it?
- f. **Friday** – *Are You Truly Following Jesus?*
 - i. Compare the response of Peter and the other fishermen in verse 11 to that of the individuals described in Matthew 8:18-22 and 19:16-22.
 1. What are the obvious differences?
 2. Which best exemplifies the typical response to becoming a Christian (following Christ) in our society today?
 3. How should we apply this to our lives in 2024?
 - ii. What does it mean to you to “truly” follow Jesus? Is it necessary to become a full time Christian worker (pastor, missionary, youth worker, etc.)? What does Luke 8:38-39 suggest? Seriously consider what it means to follow Jesus and then honestly ask if that is what you are doing.
- g. **Saturday** – *Are You Fishing for People?*
 - i. When they come home empty-handed fishermen often repeat an old saying, “That’s why they call it fishing not catching.” While Jesus promised a catch (verse 4) what did He tell His disciples they would do?
 - ii. Read again Matthew 13:1-9. How does this passage affect the way you view fishing for men? What are we responsible for doing and what are we not able to do? Consider 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. How should Paul’s message be applied to our lives as fishers of men?
4. **Application:** The message of this sermon is deeply personal between God and each of us individually. If we are honest with ourselves and with God none of us can probably say we are truly following Jesus to the extent and in the manner He requires. The great men and women of the faith throughout history have acknowledged this about their lives and would say they had much room for improvement. Perhaps it is time that we honestly and publicly make the same confession – because until we do, we are unlikely to make the changes necessary. Spending time with God in prayer about it is the first step.

5. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. **C**onfession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. **S**upplications – Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19