

LEMONADE

Leaving My Comfort Zone, Luke 5:1-11

The Comfort Zone

Luke 5:1-3 (KJV) ¹ And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, ² And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. ³ And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

- Jesus is preaching along the shore of the lake of Gennesaret, which also the called the Sea of Galilee
- The crowd has grown so large that is it literally backing Jesus up against the shore of the lake
- This crowd was so hungry for the word of God
- Fishermen were nearby washing their nets in two boats
- Jesus enters Peter's boat and asks if he would push out his boat *a little way* from the land so He could preach from it
- Peter agrees his boat *a little way* from the shore push away from the shore so Jesus can sit down and preach from the boat
- What Jesus asked Peter to do was in his "comfort zone", it was safe, easy, and there no stress, worry or risk to Peter
- This was an opportunity for Jesus to more effectively minister the word of God to the crowd and minister *directly* to Peter
- ***Jesus had a public word for the multitude, but at the same time He personal word for Peter***

Leave Your Comfort Zone

⁴ Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

- When Jesus had finished preaching, He said to Peter, "Launch out into the deep, and let down you nets for a draught (catch)"
- Jesus speaks a word into Peter's life:
 - Get out of the shallow water of the shoreline and go into the deep water of the Sea of Galilee
 - Throw your net(s) out again
 - Draw in the net(s) your catch of fish (the outcome)
- Jesus is making to *two commands* of Peter:
 1. Take your boat out into deeper water and let down your nets for a draught
 2. Leave your *personal comfort zone* and put all of your faith in Me
- ***God is always working to personally take us further and deeper into our relationship with Him***
- God is always speaking through His word, sermons, situations and people and He's waiting for our response
- ***Jesus' words were not suggestions or options to Peter, they were a directive, a command***
- ***Jesus' words were confrontational***

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Question: How do handle the direct, in your face, sometimes confrontational words of Jesus?

The Discomfort Zone

⁵ And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing:

- Jesus' command stepped into Peter's *discomfort zone*
- The *discomfort zone* is that area where Jesus commanding us to go where we don't feel safe, at ease, or in control
- There's more stress and risk in the *discomfort zone* than we are accustomed to
- Simon responds to Jesus' command by saying, "Master"
- The word "master" means one who is a *Rabbi, teacher* or tutor
- Peter heard clearly what Jesus *told* him to do, but he is uncomfortable, reluctant and somewhat resistant
- Peter tells Jesus, me and my fellow fisherman have "*toiled*" all night and have caught "*nothing*"
- Peter is telling Jesus
 - We are *tired* because we've been working all night
 - We are *frustrated* and *disappointed* because we worked all night and didn't catch anything
 - We have worked "enough" hours already
 - We are the *skilled and experienced* fisherman that "know" the sea and now is *not* the time for fishing
 - We don't want to take the "risk" for uncertain "results"
- Peter has given Jesus a list of excuses/reasons not to obey His word
- Peter was saying to Jesus I hear you, but you're pulling me out of my "comfort zone"
 - Peter was saying I'm comfortable where I am
- We are sometimes a lot like Peter when God confronts and commands us to do something or make a change in our lives that we are not comfortable with

Question: Why do you resist Jesus when He steps into your "discomfort zone"?

Nevertheless

"...nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."

- Peter spent time debating with Jesus, but it was a *brief* time
- Peter seemed to catch himself in the middle of his objection and say "nevertheless"
- Peter was saying regardless of how I feel about your command, I will obey your word, go out into deep water and let down my nets for a catch
- Peter instantly changed from *objecting* to *obeying*
- What changed Peter's mind?
 1. I believe the word Jesus taught from the boat began touch Peter's heart and cause him to see Jesus differently
 2. Peter viewed Jesus as one who has authority
 3. Peter allowed the words of Jesus to overrule him

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- Peter made the decision to be “uncomfortable” *with* Jesus commands than to be “comfortable” on his own
- We *must* be like Peter and quickly say, “Nevertheless!”
- The Lord commands are not for our “comfort”, but are for our *spiritual growth* and to *advance* the cause of Christ

Obeying Jesus’ Words Pays Off

⁶ And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. ⁷ And they beckoned unto their partners, 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 Peter decided to leave his *comfort zone* and obey Jesus’ words, things changed in his life
- When Peter **humbled** himself to the word of the Lord, things began to change for him
- When Peter **demonstrated his faith** in the word of the Lord; the Lord demonstrated His power
- When Peter **placed his faith** and obedience in the word of the Lord, God’s results were set in motion
- When Peter **obeyed** the word of the Lord, the fish found his nets!
- The word of God comes to us so that we can be useful for the kingdom of God
- When Peter obeyed the words of the Lord:
 - He caught so many fish his nets were beginning to “break” under the weight of the catch
 - Peter had to call for another whole crew and another boat to take it all in
 - Both boats were filled
- All this happened because Peter obeyed Jesus and made the decision to leave his *comfort zone*
- God’s provision, power, and favor occurred in Peter’s life **after** he obeyed the word of God

Peter’s Confession

⁸ 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 was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

- Peter was amazed at what had just happened
- He knew this was no ordinary catch of fish
- This must have something to do with Jesus and his obeying His word and leaving his *comfort zone*
- Peter raced over to Jesus, fell at his knees and said, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O, Lord”
- Peter realized that He was in the presence of a Holy God
- The holiness of God reveals or exposes our lack of holiness
- Peter had to confess:
 - His sin of disobedience and unbelief

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- Jesus as Lord meaning Jesus is more than one who has authority, but is one who is holy, convicting and must be obeyed and followed
- When we obey the word of God, we do it because Jesus is Lord, He is holy, and we reverence Him, not because there is a blessing attached
- Peter just obeyed the words Jesus in faith *not knowing* what was going to happen next
- The highest form of worship is simply being amazed at how good the Lord is to imperfect people like us
 - We must be like Peter and be in awe of God

God's Greater Purpose

¹⁰ And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. ¹¹ And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

- Jesus told Peter, James and John from now on, you will *catch* men
- Jesus command was not really about fish, it was about something greater
- From the moment Jesus saw Peter, James and John *washing* their nets, Jesus knew they were the ones He'll use for greater service
- Jesus saw men that took *care* of their nets to always be ready to fish; even after a night with no success
 - If they were always ready and prepared to catch fish, they'll always be ready to catch men
 - As fishermen they caught live fish to kill, as fishers of men, they will catch "dead men" and make them "alive" through Christ
- Just as Peter's nets were always "stretchable", God wants us to be "stretchable" for any assignment He gives us
- God wants to use us in a greater way when we learn to take Him at his word, obey it, and follow Him even when it's "uncomfortable"
- Jesus had a greater purpose for speaking into Peter's life; it was never really about the fish, but it was about going deeper in relationship with Him
- ***Jesus is still speaking today, and He wants a deeper relationship with you***
- Jesus has new assignments, ministries, challenges and opportunities for you, but they are not on the shoreline, you must be willing to launch out in the deep and trust Jesus with the results
- The *discomfort zone* is where the blessings are!!!
- Nevertheless, at thy word I will....