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## Luke 5:1-11

### Weekly Bible Study Schedule

**Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 AM in HHR #5**

(breakfast provided)

**Tuesday, February 16, 8:30 PM in Office #225**

(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)

**Capitol Commission is non-partisan and  
non-denominational**

Up to this point in the Gospel of Luke, the focus is around Jesus. Chapter five shifts to Peter and his call to be a disciple of Jesus. Luke 5:1-11 is an inspirational narrative of Simon Peter's transformation. He accepts the call, and teaches us that discipleship might begin with a first call, but a disciple of Christ is an ongoing way of life. If we understand the accounts of the Gospel of Matthew and Mark, we recognize that Jesus called Peter two times before Luke's narrative. **Discipleship is a way of life.** This study will look at four characteristics of a disciple.

***(1) One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God.***

As previously stated, Galilee had a population of more than 3 million people, greater than the population of Chicago, Illinois. Galileans were well known for their courage, independence and openness to change. It was a location for Roman trade routes, commercial activity, and a thriving economy.

Here is where we find Peter, and his brother Andrew, and James, and his brother John, four commercial fishermen washing their nets within sound of Jesus' preaching.

As usual when Jesus spoke people gathered, mesmerized by His message and His grace.

***(2) He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets.***

Commercial fishing on the Sea of Galilee is from nighttime to dawn. Early, in the morning hours they are cleaning and preparing their nets for the next night's work. In the original language of the New Testament, Greek, this passage distinguishes between two different types of nets.

Peter used a drag net, a nighttime net. One put out into deep waters dragging the net behind the boat. As the fish come to the surface they are caught.

***(3) Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.***

Jesus turns Simon Peter's boat into a pulpit. Peter was willing to give what he had to be used by God. **The first characteristic of a disciple is a willing heart.** Simon was a commercial fisherman. His boat was a means to provision for his family.

**Do you have a "boat"?** Do you have a voice? Do you have wisdom? Do you have an office? Do you have a seat on the assembly floor? Do you have a significant relationship? Do you have a business? What is it that you have that you will give to God for His purposes?

***(4-6) When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!***

What is Jesus asking of Peter? It's to trust Him. **The second characteristic of a disciple is a trust in Jesus.** Peter's response is to trust Jesus when it didn't make any sense.

Jesus' request of Peter defies wisdom. The carpenter is telling the commercial fishermen to go back out into the water and cast their nets, even though that's what they did all night.

Peter revealed his trust in Jesus when he obeyed the Lord's direction to do something counter intuitive and contrary to what his five senses informed him.

Peter is a BBYSSIW disciple. ***"But because you say so, I will let down the nets."***

Trust and obedience is hand in glove. Trust doesn't come automatically. **If you aren't being stretched and**



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**challenged in your walk with God I doubt you're on the path of discipleship.** What might it be like if you invited Jesus into the "boats" of your life? Do you need all the answers to your questions before you will do something that is out of your ordinary experience? What if God directs you to forgive someone that has hurt you; will you obey the Lord in spite of your objections? How will you interact with God when you are in financial challenge? When you face physical sickness? Will you trust Him regardless of your circumstances?

*(7) A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. (8) When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." (9) For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.*

Astonished by the catch of fish, **Peter gets a glimpse of Christ' total sufficiency and Peter's inadequacy.** Christ's holiness and Peter's sinfulness. Christ' power and Peter's weakness.

On the heels of Peter's weakness Christ shows himself most powerful. Paul said: *"I will glory in my weakness. Your power is made perfect in my weakness"*. It's in the midst of your weakness when God gives you the greatest revelation.

**The third characteristic of a disciple is to recognize Jesus as the all-sufficient one.**

Peter feels so inadequate over what the Lord has done, that he feels totally unworthy of Jesus' presence. He says: "depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man".

Is that your reaction when the Lord puts His hand on your shoulder and calls out to you? Do you feel unworthy? It's from a place of honest assessment of your spiritual need, that you can find the revelation of the power of the Lord, the presence of the Lord and the provision of the Lord.

*(10) His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"*

**God is for you**, not against you. He will never leave you. He loves you unconditionally. He calls you to Himself.

*"Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?" Romans 2:4*

It's God's goodness that leads men to repentance. Its God's will that no one perish. Perhaps, you failed in an area of your life. God hasn't left you and will not abandon you. He will not reject you, when others reject you. He will not shame you when you shame yourself. God is a good God. **He crowns you with goodness.** He wants to show you His favor. And when you acknowledge His goodness, your acknowledgment brings you to repentance. **We are all debtors to His grace.** He is all-powerful.

We go from darkness to light. We were rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transported into the kingdom of light.

*(11) And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.*

They left everything and followed him. Fishing industry around Galilee was lucrative. With the trade routes by the Romans going through the region, fish and finances were thriving. Peter's leaving everything was a radical commitment. **The fourth characteristic of a disciple is commitment.**

What we give up, where we go, or what we start is not nearly as important as our focus on God and commitment to be His disciple.

**I want to be a BBYSSIW disciple.** How about you? Peter's call to discipleship is not unlike your call to discipleship. Willing, trusting, recognizing, and committing to Jesus is your call today. **Will you follow?** Discipleship is a life of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

