

LESSON TWO

A MIRACULOUS CATCH

LUKE 5:1-11

1. Read and re-read the passage. Who are the people in this passage? Where does this miracle take place? What time of day is it? Take your time and “look around” in the passage. What do you observe? What is happening?

2. What else is going on? Look back at the preceding chapter, Luke 4. This is the beginning of Jesus' calling of His disciples. Read verses 38-44. What do you think Simon learned about Jesus as he watched Him heal his mother-in-law?

a. Who do the people coming to Jesus think He is?

b. What does Jesus say is His purpose?

3. Why does what is happening in this passage constitute as a miracle?

4. What is Simon Peter's reaction to Jesus' request to put their nets out again? Why?

Why do you think he complied and with what expectation?

GETTING PERSONAL:

Low expectations of how Jesus can work in our lives often comes from a limited understanding or a small view of Him. How can our obedience to Christ grow our understanding of God and increase our faith? Can you think of a time when you have obeyed God even though it didn't make sense to you? How did that experience increase your faith?

5. The miracles of Jesus are "...acts of heavenly normalization, which is to say they are isolated snapshots of the transformation of the broken world to the way it will someday be." (*The Wonder Working God*, Jared Wilson). **Read Genesis 3:17-19**. What aspect of Adam's curse on work is happening here?

a. How is this miraculous catch a sign of God's Kingdom to come?

b. How does this encourage us in our work today?

6. We would expect Simon Peter to go a little nuts with that huge of a catch with gratitude and jubilation for the enormous boost to his finances, especially given the empty nets he'd experienced the night before. However, he falls on his knees in fear in front of Jesus and begs Him to "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord" (vv. 8-10). What do you think Simon Peter is thinking?

a. What do his actions tell us about what he believes about Jesus now?

- b. Why does he basically tell Jesus, “Go away?”

INSIGHT:

In his book, *The Holiness of God*, R.C. Sproul comments on this catch: “We notice that Jesus did not lecture Peter about his sins. There was no rebuke, no word of judgment. All Jesus did was show Peter how to catch fish. But when the Holy is manifest, no words are needed to express it. Peter got the message that was impossible to miss. The transcendent standard of all righteousness and all purity blazed before his eyes. Like Isaiah before him, Peter was “undone.”

- 7. How does Jesus respond to their fear, and what new job do they have?

- a. What qualifies them for this assignment from God?

- b. What is their response?

GETTING PERSONAL:

Isn't it amazing that Jesus changed these ordinary fishermen's day jobs from that of catching live fish that then become dead to now catching dead men so they can be alive forever? These men “left everything and followed Him” at Jesus' call. Think and pray before you answer this question: Is there anything or anyone that matters more to you than following Jesus today?

- 8. Fast forward about three years, and we read a similar story in a similar setting in John 21:1-14. What has happened before Peter's suggestion to go fishing?

- a. How is this story similar to and yet different from this one in Luke 5:1-11?

- b. How does the resurrected Jesus renew their hope?

- c. How does knowing Jesus and His calling for you to follow Him wholeheartedly bring you hope?

EXPLORE MORE:

Throughout his Gospel, Luke focuses on Jesus' training of the apostles, the creating of a missionary people who will participate in His mission by becoming disciple-makers themselves. The paradigm is that the Father sent the Son, the Son sends the Spirit, and the Spirit enables Jesus' people as Jesus sends them. It will not be until the book of Acts that Luke will present the clear picture of how Jesus' promise to Peter here unfolds.

A. Read Acts 2:36-41 and comment on the changes wrought in Peter by his years of discipleship under Jesus and the enabling of the Spirit.

B. What are some of the means of your own Christian formation and equipping that may have been neglected or de-emphasized during these current times?