

Jesus Changed My Life-But Where's Jesus?

October 10th and 13th, 2019

Scripture: Luke 5.1-11

Luke 5.1-11 (NIV)

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ 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."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Read and Discuss

Introduction

In the month of October we are hearing stories of people who have had their lives completely changed by Jesus. This weekend Pastor Pierce shared the story of Peter who had his life changed starting with a face to face encounter with Jesus. We may feel different from day to day and from place to place, but how often do we sense that we have been changed by an encounter with someone? Peter's experience led him to listen to God's Word (Jesus), to respond to his voice, and participate in the great and often unexplainable works for God's power.

Engage the Scripture

- Read Luke 5.1-11. Pierce pointed out that in verse 3 "Jesus just gets into the boat. No permission asked or given. Jesus is in your life." Have you ever felt like Jesus just placed himself in the middle of your story?
- The boat Jesus got into belonged to Peter. Peter was face to face with Jesus. Can you think of a stressful time that you found yourself face to face with Jesus? A joyful time? What is the impact of that kind of proximity?

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- Jesus taught from the boat and so Peter was on the water *with* the Word of God (John 1.1) as he listened *to* the Word of God. How and when do you sit with the word of God? Do you have a pattern of reading the Bible?
- In verses 4 and 5, what did Jesus instruct Peter to do? How did Peter respond? Have you ever responded to Jesus' teaching with an "Ok, I'll do it but..." Has God ever asked you to do something that didn't fit your normal routine? What was the outcome?
- The nets come back so full that the fishermen needed back up. Peter saw the power of Jesus do something that seems impossible. What are you facing that seems impossible? Are there goals you once had that you've allowed to shrink into doubt?
- What does it mean that as a follower of Jesus, you too are invited to fish for people? When have you been afraid to "cast the net" of inviting others to follow Jesus? When have you seen a large haul from your fishing (for people)?

Pray

God I want to sit under your Word. I want to be so formed by it that I become obedient to your call. Show me your power God! Amen.