

January 10, 2021

“Called to Follow”
Lesson 2 of Unit

Luke 5:1-11

Intro

Some of us remember singing a song when we were younger called “I Will Make You Fishers of Men”. We didn’t understand what it was about back then. It was just a fun song to sing. But at some point we understood it was referring to the incident in today’s lesson, and that changed how we thought of the song, at least a little bit.

What does it truly mean to *follow* Jesus? What does it take? And once we work through those ideas, we come to another, deeper one: *why* would He choose *me* to be His follower?

Let’s consider the caller and the call.

Read Luke 5:1-11

1. vs. 1: Why are the people crowding around him (see 4:31-41)?
2. vs. 2: The boats were likely made of cedar and oak. They were about 27 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 4 feet deep. This boat could support close to a ton in weight. It was big enough for 15 passengers, or 5 fishermen and their catch of fish. The fishermen used a large dragnet to catch with fish, requiring at least 2 men to use. After returning to shore, the next needed to be cleaned and stretched so they would remain in good condition for the next outing.
3. vs. 3: How did Jesus know Simon before this verse (see John 1:35-42, Luke 4:31-38)? Why does Jesus choose to teach the people from the boat?
4. vs. 4-5: What does Jesus ask Simon to do in vs. 4? Based on what happened in Luke 4:31-38, why might Simon have called Jesus “Master” and agreed to do what Jesus asked?

5. vs. 6: What is the result of Simon Peter's obeying Jesus in the request of vs. 4? What spiritual lesson might the fish catch be suggesting to you?
6. vs. 7: What is impressive about this particular catch of fish? What might that indicate about Jesus, who told them where and when to cast their nets (after a night of not catching anything)?
7. vs. 8: How would you describe Simon Peter's response to the fish catch? Why does he respond that way, with those particular words?
8. vs. 9-10a: Who are Simon's fishing partners? What is their reaction to the fish catch?
9. vs. 10b: When do we usually see the phrase "Fear not / Don't be afraid" used in the Bible? Is Jesus using the phrase for the same reason here, or is there something else / more behind it?
10. vs. 10c: What does the phrase "From now on..." indicate about Simon's life, and those whom Jesus calls? What similarities and differences are there between fishing for fish and fishing for men?
11. vs. 11: How might the fishermen's choice to follow Jesus require a rethinking about their identity? How would their daily routines have changed? What might it mean to us to "leave everything and follow Him"?

Application: We are much like Simon Peter. We were involved in an occupation before Jesus found us and called us to follow Him. Unlike Simon Peter, Jesus doesn't usually remove us from that occupation when we follow Him. He uses us where we are to reach others there who don't know Him yet. Jesus told the man in Luke 8:26-39 **not** to follow Him, but to go back home and tell others what God had done for him. Our earthly job has both an earthly and a heavenly purpose. We know how to do our jobs in the earthly sense. We strive also to allow Christ to use us for His kingdom as we do that earthly job. We get a "two-fer"!

Prayer: Father God, thank You for letting us hear Jesus' call to us to follow Him. Help us daily to do our earthly tasks in honor of You, and to let You work through us in those tasks to reach others for You. In Jesus' name, Amen.