

A PROFOUND CHANGE

Text: Luke 5:1-11

Key Word: Change

Key Thought: Jesus Profoundly Change the Lives of Those Who Followed Him

There comes a time in all of our lives when Jesus comes to us with a specific purpose in mind. His main goals in His ministry was to produce a group of men whom He called His disciples. These 12 men were very important to the fulfilment of God's Kingdom on earth.

The day that Jesus came to these men was a typical, ordinary day. We are told that this event took place at the Lake of Gennesaret. Other common names are the Sea of Galilee or the Sea of Tiberias. The location for this story was most likely the area of land immediately south of Capernaum, the home of Simon Peter on the North-West corner of the lake.

It's interesting to know that by the early 300's AD. this area was exclusively inhabited by the Jewish race. The Jews rigorously excluded Gentiles from their settlements. It was through the efforts of emperor Constantine that "churches for Christ" were built. It was in this same area that Jesus 300 years earlier, began calling His disciples that would eventually reach out to the Gentiles.

What Did Jesus Do That Profoundly Changed the Lives of These Disciples.

I. HE SAW DIRECTLY INTO THEM

II. HE SAT DIRECTLY AMONGST THEM

III. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THEM

I. HE SAW DIRECTLY INTO THEM

"he saw at the water's edge two boats left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets."

Luke 5:2

"As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen."

Mark 1:16

Our Lord is very perceptive. He doesn't miss a thing. These two accounts are one in the same. Both writers give us a different view of what is and has happened.

I. HE SAW DIRECTLY INTO THEM (Contd.)

The fishermen had gotten out of their boats after a frustrating night of fishing (Luke 5:5). Jesus could sense the frustration they were going through. Fishing was their livelihood. But even their experience could not make their efforts worthwhile.

It appears by comparing the gospel accounts that some were washing and mending the nets they had used the night before. These nets were a seine or drag net that was used from the boat.

But in Mark we are told that Simon and Andrew were casting out a net into the lake. Two different words are used for these nets. The net in Simon's and Andrew's hand was a common casting net. It was circular and usually 10-15 feet in diameter. The outer edge was weighted to allow it to sink quickly, thereby imprisoning the fish. In the middle of the net was a rope used to pull up the net. With this kind of net, usually only a few fish were caught with each cast.

Professional fishermen seldom used a casting net. It was reserved for poorer fishermen who did not own a boat. It seems like after a fruitless night they were willing to try anything. Jesus understands our frustrations. It was not because of laziness that they had caught nothing.

"we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything."

Luke 5:5

The word used to describe this means *"to toil wearisomely."* Jesus knew from their actions and looks that they were frustrated. Jesus sees into our lives in a manner that no one else can. **The Lord knew that these were the kind of men that He was looking for. They were frustrated but they wouldn't give up.** Some were getting ready for the next evenings fishing while others were still trying to fish from shore.

II. HE SAT DIRECTLY AMONGST THEM

"He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little further from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat."

Luke 5:3

It seemed like everywhere Jesus went there were crowds that followed Him. Because of the crowds, Jesus chose to get into Simon Peter's boat and went a little way from shore. This is the closest that Jesus could get to the people so He could speak to all of them.

II. HE SAT DIRECTLY AMONGST THEM (Contd.)

They only went a little distance from the shoreline. Jesus took the position of a teacher as He sat amongst them. The boat became His pulpit. The shoreline determined the positioning of the pews. Everyone heard Jesus. Everyone saw Jesus. He was dwelling amongst them.

He sat down in the nearest position that was possible to teach the people. The pressing of the crowd was appeased so Jesus could get on with His purpose for coming. Water makes an excellent amplifier. The waters around Him would also be a bennefit because nothing would distract the people. The main focus was upon Jesus.

There is no doubt in our minds when Jesus sits amongst us. You don't have to question it. Peter began to realize that Jesus was a special man.

I'm so thankful that Jesus wants to abide with us in the places that are important to us. Peter's life, like most men, was engulfed in his work. **Peter's boat became Jesus' pulpit. Have we allowed Jesus to sit in our boats (the things that symbolize the valuable things of our lives)?**

III. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THEM

His words were like none other.

*"the crowds were amazed at his teaching,
29. because he taught as one who had authority,
and not as their teachers of the law."*

Matthew 7:28,29

The words of Jesus became very straight as His ministry on earth progressed. The Bible calls it "hard teaching" (John 6:60). His disciples had to make a choice about what they wanted to hear. Jesus knew that His words carried an anointing with them.

*"The words that I have spoken to you
are spirit and they are life."*

John 6:63

He also demanded changes in people's lives. Some were unwilling to change and left from following Jesus.

III. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THEM (Contd.)

"You do not want to leave too, do you? Jesus asked the Twelve.

68. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life?"

John 6:67,68

Jesus had some special words for Peter.

"Put out into the 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.'

Luke 5:4,5

The words to Peter probably came with some real doubt. As an experienced fisherman he realized that fishing in deep water at that time of day was unlikely to produce a good catch. God was testing Peter's obedience along with his companions.

Scripture goes on to explain that

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

Luke 5:6

The words of Jesus were directed to all the men in the boat. Peter may have been the spokesman but God's word was to all of them to cast their nets into the water. Sometimes we think that God is speaking to "brother so and so" or "sister you know who". **If we're in the boat we had better listen to what He has to say. His words will affect us all.**

Their obedience to the Word of God caused a great miracle to take place. The nets simply enclosed the fish that God had sent for them to catch. The nets were in danger of bursting. The catch was so large that it almost sunk the both two boats that worked together to haul it in.

The words of Jesus followed by this miracle caused Simon Peter to recognize the holiness of God and the sinfulness in his own life.

III. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THEM (Contd.)

"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!'"

Luke 5:8

Jesus did not argue with Peter's evaluation of his life. Instead of Jesus departing from Peter, it began what would be a very close relationship. God put a call on Peter's life that would change him forever. Jesus spoke directly to Simon,

"Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

Luke 5:10b

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Date: Jan 31/16

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Songs: When I look into Your Holiness - C
Open our Eyes Lord - D

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II. HE SAT DIRECTLY AMONGST THEM - *Luke 5:3*

III. HE SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THEM - *Matthew 7:28,29; John 6:60; John 6:63; John 6:67,68; Luke 5:4,5; Luke 5:6; Luke 5:8*