

Leaving Everything

Luke 5:1-11

1. Introduction.
2. Jesus Teaches the Pressing Crowd (1-3).
 - a. Jesus is experiencing celebrity status at this point.
 - b. The crowd gathers to hear Jesus teach near the Lake of Gennesaret (i.e., Sea of Galilee).
 - i. Word about Him is spreading.
 - ii. Not only does He teach with authority, but His teaching has been accompanied with signs and wonders.
 - c. “Word of God” (subjective genitive). Not a reference to the Old Testament, but to Jesus’ own words. He is God. So when He speaks, it is the very word of God being communicated.
 - d. The crowd grows so large that they begin to press upon (lit. lay upon) Jesus. He sees two boats and decides to teach from the water.
 - e. That the fishermen were washing their nets is important. It tells us it is now daytime. Professional fishermen do their fishing at night.
 - f. Jesus chooses Peter on purpose. There are other men present who will become disciples (e.g., James, John). But Peter becomes the focus of the narrative because he is going to become representative of what it means to be a true disciple throughout the rest of the Gospel. So Jesus enters His life.
3. Jesus Demonstrates He is God (4-7).
 - a. Jesus has a habit of teaching the crowds, but then pulling back to teach His disciples in a more intimate setting. This is the first time He does this in Luke, and it establishes a pattern for how He will grow His disciples.
 - i. True discipleship is interpersonal and intentional.

- ii. Disciples seek out disciples. Jesus doesn't go after the "seeker." He doesn't try to make disciples from anyone in the crowd. Rather, He goes after those not looking for Him (c.f., 19:10).
- b. Jesus creates a situation that makes little sense to a fisherman. It's hot; the middle of the day; the fish are deep; and Jesus is a carpenter. What does a carpenter know about fishing? Further, they've been fishing all night (during prime hours) and have caught nothing.
 - i. Luke likes to describe the precondition of a miracle before the miracle takes place. The purpose of this is to show that it was truly a miracle.
 - ii. The situation is going to teach them the nature of what their future mission would be like. It will be one of accomplishing the impossible, but because God stands behind it.
- c. Verse 5 shows the imperfection of Simon's faith. There is an element of doubt, but he still obeys. We should take courage in this! The kind of faith God uses is an imperfect faith.
 - i. Jesus' ability to produce fish is not tied to the strength or clarity of Simon's faith. Rather all Simon is commanded to do is drop the net.
 - ii. God has little concern over our fruitfulness, but is deeply concerned with our faithfulness. Now, if you're faithful, you will produce fruit. But all we're commanded to do is be faithful.
 - iii. Simon doesn't obey at the evidence of the miraculous, but at the Word of Jesus Christ.
- d. In verse 7, they pull in a massive catch, but need help from their partners. This is likely a reference to the necessity of partnership in the future mission of making disciples. The greater the partnership the greater the potential fruit.

4. The Response (8-10).

- a. Simon's response is one of terror. His response is similar to that of Isaiah (c.f., Isa. 6:1-6).
 - i. You will never rightly understand yourself, until you rightly understand God.
 - ii. You will never properly understand the gravity of your sin until you properly understand the holiness of God.

- iii. Simon wants Jesus to depart. Yet the appropriate response, when you realize the fullness of your sin, is never to flee from God, but to flee to God.
 - iv. The only place forgiveness can be found is with God, never away from God. In fact, this was the response of Adam and Eve in the Garden. They sought to hide from Him, yet God, in His grace and mercy, still sought them.
 - v. Simon recognizes Jesus to be YHWH of the Old Testament. He calls Him “Lord” twice—a New Testament term in reference to YHWH.
- b. Jesus responds to the reaction of Simon (and the other men). Not only is there an implication their sin will be forgiven, but He’s also going to use them in a profound way. He always uses sinners. Jesus tells them they will be catching men—a clear call to their new mission. He is redefining their identity.

5. Leaving Everything (11).

- a. The prerequisite to following Jesus is first leaving everything.
- b. Many want Jesus, and many want to follow Him, but they still want their former life and identity as well. But Jesus is clear – you cannot have both. This is a truth that is necessary for us to wrestle with. Why have you been saved? Why has Jesus rescued you from sin, but then left you on this earth? (c.f., John 17:15-18).
- c. Matthew 10:35-39.
- d. What are you known for in this life? What defines you? What do people say when they think of your name? What are you known for leaving? What are you known for following?

6. Conclusion.

- a. The passage starts with a crowd that loves to hear. Yet it ends with but a few, who are willing to leave everything and follow.
- b. Where do you stand on these things?
- c. Jesus states that He will build His Church. This is an indicative. It is going to happen. But it’s our privilege to play a part.