

Giving Up or Giving In: Part 4

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Luke 5:1–5 NLT

¹ One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ² He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³ Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." ⁵ "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing."

Are we going to hear another sermon about Peter this week? Well...yes and no. It is Peter but this was before his name change. I want us to see this as the person whose name is Simon. This story is about who he use to be and this is relational to each of us sitting here today.

Jesus was preaching and just like every incident that we read within scripture, Jesus used His surroundings to bring the gospel to life. And this situation was not different. Jesus's ministry was become more wide spread by each sermon. And even though crowds followed Him, many would get their hearts full and go about their business. But Jesus was looking for people that were willing to go all the way. This portion of scripture has been subtitled as, "The First Disciples".

Notice that Simon was hearing the same message that the crowd was hearing but he didn't excuse himself after the sermon. Jesus looked at Simon and addressed Simons problems with a commandment. How many times has this gone over our heads? How many times has God commanded us when all we wanted to do was explain our situation. The commandment that Simon received was to move beyond his current position. To move beyond where we are settling. To go deeper.....Have we missed what God wants because we settle on the shore. Simon had had to choose to Give Up or Give In. And what how Simon replied in verse 5. "We have work hard all night and didn't catch a thing." And this is exactly why Simon was found at the shore. Because he had given up. He was done trying. His ability to capture fish let him empty handed. But when we come to the father with empty hand, it's not what we can offer him but what He can offer us. And just like Simon we have all come up empty handed after trying and trying and trying to no avail. Our blood, sweat, and tears have been in vain. I want to address your heart right off gate. Are you tired of no return for your hard work? Why are you still trying to do things on your own? Why haven't you surrendered the very thing that you specialize in? But don't feel like you are the lone ranger...no pun intended, but Simon offered an excuse when Jesus gave him a commandment. And Simon even had an attitude that accompanied his false humility. Look at the rest of verse 5.

Luke 5:5 NLT

⁵ “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.”

I’ll let the nets down again. This only justified that he was aware of what he was doing... besides, he was a professional fisherman. The audacity of Simon’s statement doesn’t sound any different than ours. Let me fill you in on one of my latest corrections from God. God had commanded me to place the seed in the Landlords heart for a new unit and sometime had went by after I had planted the seed in obedience, negotiation for the new unit was under way but I i became more and more sticker shocked as the deposit and first month rent was approaching. The worry of all the work that God was showing me to do to the new unit. I confronted the Lord with the questioning of concern about the church finances. Lord it will take thousands of dollars to bring to fruition the vision you have given me. And the church account will dwindle. And the Lord responded with this statement... “Is it your money?” And of course my respond is a state of speechlessness! The Lord continued as I remained silent, You are only the steward of the direction and finance that SLM is going. I didn’t tell you to go half way and sink. My silence became repentance. Our situations do not catch God off guard. He knows the end from the beginning. We must only move instantly and stop offering our sarcasm and excuses. But I want to take this deeper than what is on the surface. Turn with me to [Genesis 22:1-12](#)

Genesis 22:1–11 NLT

¹ Some time later, God tested Abraham’s faith. “Abraham!” God called. “Yes,” he replied. “Here I am.” ² “Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you.” ³ The next morning Abraham got up early. He saddled his donkey and took two of his servants with him, along with his son, Isaac. Then he chopped wood for a fire for a burnt offering and set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day of their journey, Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ “Stay here with the donkey,” Abraham told the servants. “The boy and I will travel a little farther. We will worship there, and then we will come right back.” ⁶ So Abraham placed the wood for the burnt offering on Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them walked on together, ⁷ Isaac turned to Abraham and said, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “We have the fire and the wood,” the boy said, “but where is the sheep for the burnt offering?” ⁸ “God will provide a sheep for the burnt offering, my son,” Abraham answered. And they both walked on together. ⁹ When they arrived at the place where God had told him to go, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then he tied his son, Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham picked up the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ At that moment the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Yes,” Abraham replied. “Here I am!”

1. He obeyed instantly.
2. He obeyed when it didn't make sense.
3. He obeyed even when it hurt.
4. He obeyed when there was no benefit to himself
5. He obeyed to completion

And after Abraham had met each of these standards look at what the word of the Lord spoke to him in verse 12

Genesis 22:12 NLT

¹² “Don’t lay a hand on the boy!” the angel said. “Do not hurt him in any way, for now I know that you truly fear God. You have not withheld from me even your son, your only son.”

Does it sound like Simon feared God by his response? Now I want us to allow the Holy Spirit to search out our hearts to see if we are displaying a lack of Holy Fear! Can we stop for a moment and truly humble ourselves at His feet and let Him reveal our lack of fear of Him...Not the fear that we define as being afraid of Him but fearful of being separated from His holiness.

Luke 5:6–7 NLT

⁶ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷ A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

And this time! So much volume in these three words. These words shows the difference when we obey! The significance of how Simon had operated in his own ability and how the results became so different. And this time... Simon had tried but failed. He had done it his way but only came up empty handed. And this time signifies that he had given up on his way and given in to God's way. But what if...what if he had chosen otherwise? Can you hear the Holy Spirit speaking to your hearts right now? Our choosing to give up our way changes the outcome. And this is the beauty of every single message. The beauty of our relationship with God. Our choosing! Our choice tells the tale of have we are giving up on our ability and giving in to the commandment of God's word. When we choose to surrender our strengths to God's word we will see the abundance of God's provision. The provision that will overtake us. Ask yourself this question this morning... Has God's provisions overtaken your boat and the boat of those around you? Are you witnessing the overflow of your life into the life of others?

Luke 5:8–9 NLT

⁸ When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” ⁹ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

If we could park at this one word for just a moment. When Simon realized! This greek word means to see but not only see but perceive. To have understanding and perception. Simon's eyes were open to see what was once hidden. This reminds me of a particular incident with a servant of Elisha. The Aramean king was mobilizing his army but immediately his plan was revealed to Elisha. The king found out where Elisha was at and surrounded Elisha. The servant reported to Elisha but Elisha insisted that the Aramean army did not have the upper hand. He prayed that the eyes of his servant would be opened. And what the servant now saw was beyond the physical. He was permitted to see into the spiritual realm. And this is what Simon realized. He became so aware of his sinfulness. He realized that he was operating and going through life in his own ability. He was conformed to the ways of the world. He had adopted a lifestyle that was contrary to the heart of God. And just like we have been direct throughout this message with questions that reflect the position of our heart, we must ask ourselves this question. What have we adopted that is contrary to His heart? What thing have we allowed or caused us to be blind to the fact? Jesus made this statement to the man that He healed from blindness. [John 9:39-41](#)

John 9:39-41 NLT

³⁹ Then Jesus told him, "I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind." ⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were standing nearby heard him and asked, "Are you saying we're blind?" ⁴¹ "If you were blind, you wouldn't be guilty," Jesus replied. "But you remain guilty because you claim you can see.

When we come to the realization that we are blind we will be granted the honor of sight. When Simon realized that his way was wrong and was producing calamity and chaos for himself as well as those around him, it brought him to his knees. This realization changed his posture. His vision was becoming clearer. He now knew who he was outside of truth. This revelation brought forth repentance. Would there have been repentance if his eyes were never opened to the truth? What if Simon would have insisted that his way was the right way? What if Simon would have continued to be conform to the ways of the world? There is no change of heart if we don't realize that the commandment of God's word is the very barometer of this life and the life to come. But this change doesn't only happen with us. Watch this...

Luke 5:10-11 NLT

¹⁰ His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" ¹¹ And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Simon's obedience that brought revelation to his heart also reflected in the heart of James and John! Our obedience will reflect in those that we are close to! I'm sure that James and John could attest to the words that Simon spoke about his sinful nature. Simon's confession impacted 2 others that Jesus called to follow Him. And to make things even more interesting and that Jesus relayed a truth that was unquestioned by these new disciples. From now on you'll be fishers of people. Jesus set the tone that would change the whole world beginning with these 4 guys. But the change begin with someone giving up their way and giving in to God's heart. Notice that they left everything and followed Jesus. What is God asking you to leave behind? Are you willing to leave and forsaken the very thing that has caused you to no see the truth? Let me pray with you today!

