

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

EXPANDING THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH

Luke 5:1-11

Pastor Mingo Palacios – February 9, 2014

MEMORY VERSE

“And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” (Luke 5:4, ESV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

All Christians are called to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:18-20). How are you individually, and as a group, expanding the walls of the church to reach the lost?

LIFE GROUP QUESTIONS

The incident recorded here is obviously not the first time Jesus had been in contact with the men whom He called to be His disciples. Luke already had stated that Jesus had healed Simon’s mother-in-law, which denotes previous contact with Simon and Andrew. This seems to be at least the third time Jesus had contact with these men. In John 1:41 Andrew told Peter that he had found the Messiah. Apparently the men at first did not follow Jesus on a “full-time” basis, for in Mark 1:16–20 (also Matt. 4:18–22) Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Mark recorded that that call was before Jesus entered the synagogue in Capernaum and healed a man who was demon-possessed. It is no wonder Peter invited Jesus home after the synagogue incident.

Now, sometime later, Peter and the others were still fishermen. It was at this point, now that Jesus had established His authority (Luke 4:31–44), that He called these men to full-time discipleship.¹ Here at the Sea of Galilee we witness the fishermen being called into a more intimate fellowship with Christ.

Read Luke 5:1-11.

1. Jesus did not call on Peter at a convenient time (Luke 5:3-4).

¹ John A. Martin, “Luke,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 216.



- a. Fishing was done on the Sea of Galilee at night. Apparently these men had been fishing all night and simply were washing and repairing their nets (cf. Mark 1:19) for the next night.²
- b. A lifetime of fishing experience had Peter convinced that it was hopeless to “let down his nets” again (Luke 5:5).

God will not always call us when it is convenient or easy. When all signs were pointing toward not putting down his nets (it was daytime, they hadn’t caught anything, they were tired, etc.), Jesus called Peter to cast his nets one more time.

How do we prevent our circumstances from keeping us from answering the call of God?

- 2. Peter demonstrated his faith by completely obeying Jesus.
 - a. Even when we are completely empty of energy and fight, Jesus can renew our strength.
 - b. Despite catching no fish, Peter had confidence that when Christ commanded him to try one more time that something would be caught.

We must not quit our work to which we have been called because we haven’t achieved the success that we promised ourselves.

How do we stay faithful to the work to which we’ve been called?

- 3. Jesus produced a miracle catch of fish.
 - a. Christ showed his dominion and power over the fish, sea, and land.
 - b. This miraculous act confirmed the message he had just preached (v. 4).
 - c. Christ repaid Peter for the use of his boat.
 - d. So great was the catch that another boat was brought in to help and both boats began to sink under the weight of the fish (v. 7).

There is nothing, no problem or situation, too big for Jesus.

What miracle(s) do you need from God? Are your prayers full of faith and expectation that God can deliver?

- 4. Everyone was astonished at the miraculous catch (v. 9).
 - a. Peter and his fishermen friends were best suited to recognize the miraculous work, as they were most experienced and skilled in catching fish.

² Robert James Utley, *The Gospel According to Luke*, vol. Volume 3A, Study Guide Commentary Series (Marshall, TX: Bible Lessons International, 2004), Lk 5:2.



- b. They also were the most interested in the catch and benefited from it the most.
- c. Peter recognized his unworthiness and sinfulness before Christ (v. 8).

When we are confronted with the power and glory of God the appropriate response, like that of Peter, is that of confession, worship and praise.

Do you have the regular discipline of confession of sins to both God and your brothers and sisters in Christ? If not, find one or more people you can begin to commit to this discipline.

- 5. At the pinnacle of their business and secular success Peter, James, John, and others abandoned it all in order to follow Christ.

When *riches increase*, and we are therefore most in temptation to *set our hearts* upon them, then to quit them for the service of Christ, this is *thank-worthy*.³

If you achieved every secular goal in your life (career, money, family, house, friends, etc.) would you be willing to leave it all for Jesus?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Commit to expanding the walls of the church as a group, by planning and executing an outreach project. See the Life Group Blog: <http://blog.sdrock.com/lifegroups/> for ideas. You can follow the MicroSite movement on social media by searching for #evenheremovement. If your group would like to serve on the MicroSite team or have a location you'd like to bring a MicroSite service to, contact mingo.palacios@sdrock.com

Notes:

³ Matthew Henry, *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: Complete and Unabridged in One Volume* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 1994), 1840.

