

WHEN JESUS SAYS, "FOLLOW ME!"

I. Luke 5:1-11 John 21:1-19

A. Jesus could adapt to any setting. He preached in the temple and in synagogues, on mountainsides, by rivers, during walks, at dinner tables, sitting by a well or a campfire or in a boat. We too have needed to adapt. Hope this is working for you!

B. Luke 5:1-11 (ESV) Jesus teaches from a boat and a miraculous catch occurs...

1) **V1-3:** *1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, (a.k.a. **Sea of Galilee or Sea of Tiberias**)* *2 and He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.* *3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, (i.e. **Peter**) He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. (Jesus knew the Word of God. In fact He was the Word of God. And He would declare that Word anywhere, to anyone, in anyway He could!)*

2) **V4-5:** *4 And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." (**What audacity! A Carpenter tells a fisherman where to fish!**)* *5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets." (**Peter sees Jesus as Rabbi or Prophet, so he respectfully complies but with low expectations.**)*

3) **V6-8:** *6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.* *7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.* *8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (**Peter now realizes Jesus is much more than a Rabbi or Prophet, let alone a carpenter! In the presence of God our sin becomes horribly evident!**)*

4) **V9-11:** *9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,* *10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." (**Gk, *Anthropoi*, men & women.**)* *11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.*

C. Jesus' disciples were a ragtag bunch. They certainly weren't Pharisees! They weren't learned OT scholars. They were ordinary Jewish men with varied backgrounds whom Jesus chose to turn the world upside down (*or right side up*). As high as their expectations were initially, those expectations were still way too low. They came to believe Jesus was the Messiah but only figured on the overthrow of the Romans and a return to Israel's glory days. Despite the OT Scriptures and Jesus' words, they never anticipated Jesus dying on a cross or rising from the dead. In their wildest dreams they never imagined He would conquer sin and death and Satan himself.

D. Know this: Jesus either has called you to Himself or He is calling you now. So if you know deep down He's opening your heart to respond to Him, do just that, respond! If He's calling you from death to life, live! If He's causing the scales to fall from your blind

eyes so you might see, look to Him to give you clarity of vision as to this great salvation He's offering to you...

E. So Jesus goes to the cross, dies, and is buried. They place Him in a tomb. He rises three days later, even while they are hiding in fear. He appears to them behind locked doors. They see His wounds. He eats fish. They know it's Jesus! And then what do they decide to do? They decide to go fishing! John 21 tells the story...

F. John 21:1-19 (ESV) is about another miraculous catch and renewed call to follow.

1) V1-3a: *1 After this Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, (a.k.a. Sea of Galilee or Lake Gennesaret) and He revealed Himself in this way. 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. 3a Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." (They'd left their nets to follow Jesus after that miraculous catch three years earlier. What's going on in their minds and hearts now?)*

2) 3b-5: 3b *They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. (Sound familiar?) 4 Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. 5 Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" (Think He already knew?) They answered Him, "No." (Think they were grumpy?)*

3) V6-8: 6 *He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. 7 That disciple whom Jesus loved (John) therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. 8 The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. (So amazing!)*

4) V9-11: 9 *When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. (A post-resurrection breakfast cookout which Jesus prepared!) 10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. (On the first miraculous catch the nets were breaking and their boats were sinking! These nets must have been better and stronger. Haha...)*

5) V12-14: 12 *Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord. 13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. (Remember feeding the 5000+?) (Story: Janet used to eat tuna for breakfast!) 14 This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after He was raised from the dead.*

*** But next Jesus needs to have a restorative conversation with the one who denied Him three times the night of His arrest. Watch for the tender loving mercy of God...**

6) V15-19: 15 *When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him,*

“Tend My sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” and he said to Him, “Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You.” Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This He said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this He said to him, “Follow Me.”

G. There's no greater words of love in all the universe than when Jesus says to you, "Follow Me." The late John Stott said: "Our Christian life began not with our decision to follow Christ but with God's call to us to do so." (Maybe you'll hear & heed that call today...)

H. You cannot follow Jesus with a heart of stone; you first need a heart of flesh, i.e. a regenerated heart, an internal awakening, a rebirthing on the inside. Is something like that happening to you now? Jesus demonstrated how much He loved you by dying on the cross for your sins. He died for sinners. He died for us who were enemies from birth. He died for deniers. He died for those ashamed to be seen with Him, or associated with Him. But He wasn't ashamed to die for you! He loved you so much He absorbed God's wrath against your sin and rebellion. (Sign: *Jesus loves you!*) If you quiet your spirit and listen closely, you may just hear Jesus speak those same incredible words to you: "*Follow Me!*" How might you respond? As we go to prayer, keep listening for Jesus' voice. Listen for Him to speak to you deep down inside. And when He does, respond...

* Close with Prayer...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Luke 5:1-11 \(ESV\)](#)

1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on Him to hear the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, **2** and He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4** And when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at Your word I will let down the nets.” **6** And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. **7** They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **8** But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” **9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, **10** and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” **11** And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

[John 21:1-19 \(ESV\)](#)

1 After this Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and He revealed Himself in this way. **2** Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. **3** Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. **4** Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. **5** Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered Him, "No." **6** He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. **7** That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. **8** The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. **9** When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. **10** Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." **11** So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. **12** Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask Him, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord. **13** Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. **14** This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after He was raised from the dead. **15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Feed My lambs." **16** He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My sheep." **17** He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" and he said to Him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep. **18** Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go." **19** (This He said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this He said to him, "Follow Me."

Quote by John Stott

"Our Christian life began not with our decision to follow Christ but with God's call to us to do so."

Video Clips & Important Articles

"Fishers of Men" - Rhonda Vincent

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9RXHwYU2JY&feature=related>

Peter Do You Love Me?

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-Drs0Cwxs0&feature=related>

"Cletus Take The Reel" - Tim Hawkins :-)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zfs3BJZxKkc>

Bonus Stuff

Mark 1:16-20 (ESV)

16 Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. **17** And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men." **18** And immediately they left their nets and followed Him. **19** And going on a little farther, He saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. **20** And immediately He called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed Him.

Matthew 4:18-22 (ESV)

18 While walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. **19** And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." **20** Immediately they left their nets and followed Him. **21** And going on from there He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. **22** Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

John 20:30-31 (NIV)

30 Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. **31** But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

John 21:24-25 (NIV)

24 This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true. **25** Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.

Hebrews 2:1-4 (Phillips)

1-4 We ought, therefore, to pay the greatest attention to the truth that we have heard and not allow ourselves to drift away from it. For if the message given through angels proved authentic, so that defiance of it and disobedience to it received appropriate retribution, how shall we escape if we refuse to pay proper attention to the salvation that is offered us today? For this salvation came first through the words of the Lord Himself: it was confirmed for our hearing by men who had heard Him speak, and God moreover

has plainly endorsed their witness by signs and miracles, by all kinds of spiritual power, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit, all working to the divine plan.

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"You cannot be Christ's servant if you are not willing to follow Him, cross and all. What do you crave? A crown? Then it must be a crown of thorns if you are to be like Him. Do you want to be lifted up? So you shall, but it will be upon a cross."

Quote by Tim Keller

"Jesus says, "I want you to follow Me so fully, so intensely, so enduringly that all other attachments in your life look weak by comparison."

Quote by Josh McDowell

"No matter how devastating our struggles, disappointments, and troubles are, they are only temporary. No matter what happens to you, no matter the depth of tragedy or pain you face, no matter how death stalks you and your loved ones, the Resurrection promises you a future of immeasurable good."

Quote by Charles Swindoll

"The devil, darkness, and death may swagger and boast, the pangs of life will sting for a while longer, but don't worry; the forces of evil are breathing their last. Not to worry...He's risen!"

Quote by Billy Graham

"Death has two stages, first the separation of the body from the spirit...for a purely spiritual existence, and second, reunion with the body and a glorious resurrection at the Second Coming of Christ."

Quote by Peter Marshall

"No tabloid will ever print the startling news that the mummified body of Jesus of Nazareth has been discovered in old Jerusalem. Christians have no carefully embalmed body enclosed in a glass case to worship. Thank God, we have an empty tomb. The glorious fact that the empty tomb proclaims to us is that life for us does not stop when death comes. Death is not a wall, but a door."

Jesus' Appearances After His Resurrection

Student's Life Application Study Bible

The truth of Christianity rests heavily on the Resurrection. If Jesus rose from the grave, who saw Him? How trustworthy were the witnesses? Those who claimed to have seen the risen Jesus went on to turn the world upside down. Most of them also died for being followers of Christ. People rarely die for halfhearted belief. These are people who saw Jesus risen from the grave:

Mary Magdalene:

Mark 16:9-11; John 20:10-18

The other women at the tomb:	Matthew 28:8-10
Peter in Jerusalem:	Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5
The two travelers on the road:	Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35
Ten disciples behind closed doors:	Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25
All the disciples, with Thomas (excluding Judas Iscariot):	John 20:26-31; 1 Corinthians 15:5
Seven disciples while fishing:	John 21:1-14
Eleven disciples on the mountain:	Matthew 28:16-20
A crowd of more than five hundred:	1 Corinthians 15:6
Jesus' brother James:	1 Corinthians 15:7
Those who watched Jesus ascend into heaven:	Luke 24:44-49; Acts 1:3-8

- From the *Students's Life Application Bible*, New Living Translation, Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Wheaton, Illinois, 60189 Copyrights 1992, 1994, 1997, Page 1034.

Insights On Peter

By Eugene Peterson

Among the apostles, the one absolutely stunning success was Judas, and the one thoroughly groveling failure was Peter. Judas was a success in the ways that most impress us: he was successful both financially and politically. He cleverly arranged to control the money of the apostolic band; he skillfully manipulated the political forces of the day to accomplish his goal. And Peter was a failure in ways that we most dread: he was impotent in a crisis and socially inept. At the arrest of Jesus he collapsed, a hapless, blustering coward; in the most critical situations of his life with Jesus, the confession on the road to Caesarea Philippi and the vision on the Mount of transfiguration, he said the most embarrassingly inappropriate things. He was not the companion we would want with us in time of danger, and he was not the kind of person we would feel comfortable with at a social occasion. Time, of course, has reversed our judgments on the two men. Judas is now a byword for betrayal, and Peter is one of the most honored names in the church and in the world. Judas is a villain; Peter is a saint. Yet the world continues to chase after the successes of Judas, financial wealth and political power, and to defend itself against the failures of Peter, impotence and ineptness.

- Eugene Peterson, quoted by Tim Kimmel in, *Little House on the Freeway*, pp. 191-192.

The Lazy Fisherman

Philip Parham tells the story of a rich industrialist who was disturbed to find a fisherman sitting lazily beside his boat. *"Why aren't you out there fishing?"* he asked. *"Because I've caught enough fish for today,"* said the fisherman. *"Why don't you catch more fish than you need?"* the rich man asked. *"What would I do with them?"* *"You could earn more money,"* came the impatient reply, *"and buy a better boat so you could go deeper and catch more fish. You could purchase nylon nets, catch even more fish, and make more money. Soon you'd have a fleet of boats and be rich like me."* The fisherman asked, *"Then what would I do?"* *"You could sit down and enjoy life,"* said the industrialist. *"What do you think I'm doing now?"* the fisherman replied as he looked placidly out to sea.

- *Our Daily Bread*, May 18, 1994.

A Priest Goes Fishing

A priest decided to go fishing. He fished from dawn and throughout the day but caught nothing. So on the way home he stopped by the market and picked out 3 big fish. Then he asked the worker behind the counter to toss them to him over the counter which he did. Then the priest handed them back and while the worker wrapped up the fish, he asked the priest why he had him toss the fish to him. The priest replied, *"So when I get back to the church I can tell the Monsignor I actually caught these."* - Author Unknown.