



Kingdom Call – Fishing

We are starting a new series on Jesus' majestic instructions to his disciples. His call to his disciples as their king is a call unlike any other king. The first of these instructions/calls is for his disciples to fish.

In Luke 5, we read of an intriguing encounter between Simon Peter and Jesus. Through this encounter, Jesus meant to teach something important to his disciples. We will do well to dig deeper into this encounter and learn from our king.

Launch

- 1) Who are some characteristics of Christians leaders that you tend to follow/look up to?

Jesus on Fishing

Read Luke 5:1-11

- 2) Where was Jesus and what was he doing? (v1)
 - a. Try to draw the scene that is described in v1-3.
- 3) What did Jesus do to the crowd when he saw down in the boat? (v3)
 - a. What does this show us about Jesus' commitment to God's word? What does this tell us about what Jesus thought the crowd's greatest needs are?
 - b. In what way can you show your commitment to God's word in your own situation/context?
- 4) What did he ask Simon to do? (v4)
- 5) How was the haul from the previous night's work for Simon Peter? (v5)
 - a. What do you think Simon Peter must be feeling/thinking when Jesus asked him to put out his nets for a catch?
 - b. How did Simon Peter respond regardless?
 - c. How can we as Christians respond similarly to Jesus even during times when we would feel like what is described in Q5a?
- 6) What was the result of their catch? (v6-7)

- 7) What did Simon Peter do when he saw the results of the catch? (v8)
 - a. Why do you think he reacted that way? Who do you think Simon Peter thought Jesus was?
 - b. How often do we as Christians react that way to Jesus? Why or why not?

- 8) What was Jesus' response to Simon Peter? (v10)
 - a. How do you think Simon Peter will be fishing for people? How did Jesus himself "fish" for people? (cf. v1-3)
 - b. Based on what you know/familiar with the rest of the New Testament, think of a time where Simon Peter fished for people for Jesus.

- 9) What did the disciples leave behind to follow Jesus? Why do you think they were willing to do that?

- 10) How can you do the same for Jesus today in your own circumstance?
 - a. What are some things that are hindering you? What can you do about that?

- 11) What are some ways that you can "fish" for people in your life?

It is a strange encounter, but one that is instructive by Jesus to his disciples about catching people for the kingdom of God. When Jesus asked Simon Peter to put out his net again into the water, he must have felt bemused. Jesus was not a fisher by trade – he was a carpenter. Simon Peter, on the other hand, was a fisher by occupation. Simon Peter knew much more about fishing than Jesus. Nonetheless, Simon Peter obeyed Jesus after a frustrating night of no catch. This obedience resulted in such a large catch that even their boats began to sink.

Simon Peter realised the gravity of what Jesus demonstrated to him there. Jesus is indeed the Son of God, the Messiah. This causes Simon Peter to fall on Jesus' knees and confess his sinfulness. But Jesus in his grace asks him not to be afraid, and that from then on, he will be fishing for people. As his disciples, that is what Jesus calls us to do – to be fishers of people, for his kingdom. This is done by preaching the Gospel message of Christ – the word of God.

Memory verse – 1 Corinthians 1:17 – "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power."