

The Miraculous Catch

Luke 5:1-11

April 25, 2021

God's plan and ways are not always the most logical, the most rational or make the most sense (Luke 5: 4-5).

It was a well-known fact that when fishing in the Sea of Galilee you fished mainly at night and in shallow waters.¹

So when Jesus told Simon (Peter) to go out into the deep and let his nets down for a catch it was no wonder why he was confused, not to mention they had fished all night and caught nothing.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts".

Isaiah 55:8-9

We need to confirm that we truly are hearing from the Lord. The best way to hear from Him is to walk with Him daily, spend time in prayer, so that we make sure we are hearing from the Holy Spirit. Also, God will never speak (contradict His Word) in opposition to Himself.

When the Lord speaks we need to respond (end of verse 5-7).

Really, the whole Christian life can be summed up with "Trust and Obey."

As I have shared, one of my favorite quotes that I heard Tom Elliff say a number of years back is, "we are educated beyond our obedience." What if we started obeying what we already know?

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.*

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

(lyrics - Trust and Obey, Dan Moen)

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, David, Peter, to name a few

When we see who we are in light of who Jesus is, we realize we have no standing (Luke 5:8).

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Isaiah 6:5

When we really get a glimpse of our heart and minds and see who Jesus is we realize we shouldn't be mentioned in the same sentence, but because the blood of Jesus we can be called sons and daughters of the King.

Jesus is looking for followers, not fans.

The fishermen's farewell to their calling, in order to their constant attendance on Christ (v. 11): *When they had brought their ships to land*, instead of going to seek for a market for their fish, that they might make the best hand they could of this miracle, they *forsook all and followed him*, being more solicitous to serve the interests of Christ than to advance any secular interests of their own. It is observable that they *left all to follow Christ*, when their calling prospered in their hands more than ever it had done and they had had uncommon success in it. When *riches*

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). The Bible Exposition Commentary (Vol 1, pp185-186). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books

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*.²

"The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ. They want to be close enough to Jesus to get all the benefits, but not so close that it requires anything from them."³

"Fans don't mind him doing a little touch-up work, but Jesus wants complete renovation. Fans come to Jesus thinking tune-up, but Jesus is thinking overhaul. Fans think a little makeup is fine, but Jesus is thinking makeover. Fans think a little decorating is required, but Jesus wants a complete remodel. Fans want Jesus to inspire them, but Jesus wants to interfere with their lives."

"Fans mistake knowledge OF Jesus for intimacy WITH Jesus."

"So in case someone left it out or forgot to mention it when they explained what it meant to be a Christian, let me be clear: There is no forgiveness without repentance. There is no salvation without surrender. There is no life without death. There is no believing without committing."

"In teaching people what it means to be a Christian, we spend much of our time and effort bringing them to a point of belief without clearly calling them to follow. We have taken "believe" and we have written that in capital letters with bold print: BELIEVE. But everything that has to do with following has been put in small print: follow."

"The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ."

"It's much easier to talk about following Jesus when you are making general statements rather than specific commitments."

"My concern is that many of our churches in America have gone from being sanctuaries to becoming stadiums. And every week all the fans come to the stadium where they cheer for Jesus but have no interest in truly following him. The biggest threat to the church today is fans who call themselves Christians but aren't actually interested in following Christ."

"Instead of identifying myself as a follower because I know about Jesus, I understand that I am a follower because I know Jesus."

"And I want you to know, before we go any further, that Jesus came to free you from religion. To those who have been hauling around a long list of rules. To those who are pretending to be more than they really are. To those who are weighed down with the fear and guilt of religion. To all the fans who are worn out on religion, Jesus invites you to follow him."

Forsaking
All
I
Trust
Him

Prayer Focus:

I would simply obey the Lord and follow Him.

² Henry, M. (1994). *Matthew Henry's commentary on the whole Bible: complete and unabridged in one volume* (pp. 1839–1840). Peabody: Hendrickson.

³ Kyle Idleman, *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*.