

THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH Text: Luke 5:1-11

Faith to Trust God Even When Things Seem Hopeless

Introduction:

1. **We are living in a season of worry and isolation...**
 - a. A Time of Uncertainty, insecurity, confusion
 - b. This is a Faith Test for all of us...
2. **In a Number of Jesus Miracles—Jesus Used the Situation as a Faith Test**
 - a. He asked Phillip, where will we be able to buy bread for all these people?
 - b. He asks Peter, Launch into the Deep and Let Down Your Nets...
Knowing they Had Worked All Night and Caught Nothing!
3. **True FAITH is Trusting in the Power of God's Word,
—Even When things Seem Hopeless**

I. THE MIRACLE

A. THE SETTING BY THE SEA: (v.1–3) the Sea of Galilee

1. **Jesus is Teaching at the Sea of Galilee (also called the Lake of Gennesaret) using a fishing boat as a pulpit and the shore as an amphitheater**
2. **in 1986, An Ancient fishing boat was found at bottom of the sea of Galilee**
 - a) And what is remarkable is that it is from the 1st century, the time of Jesus ministry
 - b) It has been called, the Jesus boat, only because it is from the time of His ministry
 - c) It is Possible that it was on the Lake when Jesus was teaching from Peter's boat

B. THE REQUEST OF FAITH: (v.4) 'Launch Our Into the Deep...'

1. **Jesus is about to challenge Peter's Faith to Grow Stronger**
 - a) He Will Challenge Peter in a Way that Peter NEEDS to Be Challenged
 - b) Just as He Challenged Phillip the way Phillip NEEDED to be challenged (**Jn 6:5–7**)
 - c) **Jesus Knew—but He Was Testing Phillip's Faith the Way He's Testing Peter's**
2. **If Our Faith is Anemic and Weak—We Cannot Be Useful in the Kingdom**
 - a) The Miracles of Jesus show us His Power and His Compassion
 - b) But they Also Challenge Our Faith to Grow Stronger—less anemic
3. **He Wants Our Faith to Launch Into the Deep**
 - a) We Would Rather Stay in the Shallow End of the Pool Right?!
But Jesus wants us to Launch Out in the Deep!

"A ship is safe in harbor, but that's not what ships are for." (John A. Shedd)

C. THE RELUCTANT RESPONSE: (v.5) 'Master we have toiled all night...'

1. **Peter is essentially saying... We've Already Tried This...**
 - a) Think of the Excuses Peter could've brought up...
 - (1) It's the wrong time for fishing—the best fishing is at night
 - (2) I know about Fishing than a carpenter does
 - (3) I worked all night and I'm tired
 - (4) We already washed our nets
 - (5) All these people scared the fish away

2. This is a Faith Test for Peter! —Will He Obey the Divine Word of the Lord?

- a) EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE?
- b) Even If it Goes Against His Own Personal Pride?

3. Nevertheless, at your Word I will...

- a) Peter Had to Voice His Objection—>He didn't Even Bite His Tongue!
- b) But After Voicing His Objection—OK since it is You asking I Guess I Will...
- c) Almost like, I'll go through the motions to humor you, but it won't change anything

D. THE ASTONISHMENT OF THE CATCH (v.6–9)

1. Their Nets Were Breaking... the Boats Were Sinking...

2. These were lifelong fishermen and they knew a miracle when they saw it

3. And Peter Knew He Was in Sin in the Presence of the Holy...

- a) Which is Why “he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying,
“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”
- b) Peter Knew He Was Wrong for Questioning the Savior

E. THE REASSURANCE OF A GREATER CALLING (v.10)

**1. Jesus challenged Peter’s Faith to Make it Grow Stronger
and Peter was Humbled by it...**

- a) But Jesus Reassured Him that He Was Calling Him for a Greater Calling
- b) Something Bigger than Just an Occupation to Support His Family
- c) A Role to Play in God’s Kingdom!

**2. Jesus will use these fishermen’s own nets to catch the fishermen!
Jesus is Preparing them to Change the World!**

- a) “For He who by the foolish things of the world would confound the wise, and by the weak things of the world would confound the strong, who meant as Augustine has it, to draw emperors to Himself by fishermen, and not fishermen by emperors, lest His Church should even seem to stand in the wisdom and power of men rather than of God—He saw in these simple fishermen the aptest instruments of His work.” (Trench)

**3. God Didn’t Use Emperors to Call Fishermen—
He used Fishermen to call Emperors!**

- a) God Doesn’t Need Emperors to Build His Church... or Ph’Ds or counselors, or supreme court judges, or doctors or lawyers
- b) He takes 12 ordinary men... Fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, rejects!
to spread His kingdom and change the world!

F. THE FAITH TO FOLLOW (v.11)

1. If God can Take Fishermen, tax collectors, zealots to change the world...

Then God can Take You and I and Create a New Life

**2. He Can Change Our Life, our marriage, our family, our children
and give us a new future**

3. IF we Have the Faith to Follow Him!

II. THE PRINCIPLES

A. WE THINK WE CAN MAKE IT ALONE BUT WE CAN'T

1. **Peter was a Fisherman by Trade—He grew up on these waters**
 - a) We Have Worked All Night and Haven't Caught Anything
(so we're definitely not going to catch any now!)
 - b) I'm sure they were all tired... hungry... exhausted from working all night
 - c) Lord, you know about preaching and teaching—but I know about fishing
2. **We Think We Can Make it Alone—on our Own—that we don't need help...**
 - a) We Think We Know What is Best in Our Life, our Marriage, our family, our work
3. **But We Can't Make it Alone—we need the Lord**
—And The Truth is We Were Never Meant to Make it Alone
 - a) God Gave Us His Son—so we can be forgiven
 - b) God Gave us His Spirit—to help us and strengthen us
 - c) God gave us His Word—to Guide us, correct us, and comfort us

B. FAITH IS TRUSTING THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD EVEN IF THINGS SEEM HOPELESS

1. **They Had Been Fishing All Night...and Had Not Caught Anything**
 - a) Peter was Was Reluctant, He was Tired, the nets were put away...
But he still said, 'nevertheless at your word I will' (v.5)
2. **Faith is Trusting the Power of God's Word, Even If Things Seem Hopeless**
 - a) Even if We're Tired — We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight
3. **Think of the Power of God's Word...**
 - a) At Your word, there was light.
 - b) At Your word, the sun, moon, stars, and planets were created.
 - c) At Your word life came to this earth.
 - d) At Your word creation is held together and sustained.
 - e) At Your word empires rise and fall; history unfolds God's great plan. (Guzik)
4. **Heaven and Earth Will Pass Away—But God's Word Will NEVER Pass Away**

C. GOD PROVIDES WHEN WE TRUST IN HIM AND DO HIS WILL

1. **Jesus Told Peter What to Do: Launch Into the Deep and Let Down your nets**
 - a) But Peter Didn't Want To... —We already tried...
 - b) Namaan Didn't Want to Dip in the Dirty Jordon River... —it doesn't make sense
 - c) Moses Didn't Want to Confront Pharaoh or Lead the People—I'm not a good speaker
2. **But God is Faithful—He Provides When We Trust and Obey**
 - a) Husbands love your wife: > I already tried that—it doesn't work
 - b) Wives respect your husband: > I already tried that— it doesn't work
3. **God is Faithful—He Will Provide when we Trust and Obey**

D. GOD PROVIDES MORE THAN WE NEED OR DESERVE

1. **Jesus was calling these disciples to follow Him...**
 - a) But Peter had a family to support, how could he Leave them and follow the Lord?
 - b) Here is His Answer! Their Nets Were Breaking and their Boats were sinking!

2. **Jesus Told Us, Do Not Worry about Our Life (Matthew 6:25; 27)**
 - a) Do Not what you will eat, drink, wear...
 - b) Which of you by working can add a single hour to your life?
 - c) But What do we do? —We Worry! > Why Pray When We Can Worry?
3. **(Matthew 6:31–34) Seek First the Kingdom of God and HIS Righteousness**
 - a) (not your own) and all these things will be added unto you!
4. **God Owns Everything! — the Whole World is His!**
 - a) God is Faithful—He Will Provide More than We Need or Even Deserve

E. EVERY KNEE WILL BOW AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS

1. **When Peter Realized he was truly in the presence of the Holy,**
 - a) —he became acutely aware of his own sin
2. **There will come a time when EVERY Knee will Bow...**
 - a) Not Because They Are Forced to by God—against their will...
 - b) They Will Be Convicted to by the Holiness of God who is a Consuming Fire
3. **But Notice What Jesus said to Peter: “Do Not Be Afraid...”**
 - a) While Most Will Bow and Confess in Fear
—God’s People Will Bow and Confess in Praise
 - b) (2 Timothy 1:7) “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

F. WE ARE ALSO CALLED TO A HIGHER CALLING

1. **“Ever more people today have the means to live, but no meaning to live for.” (Viktor Frankl)**
2. **Jesus Told Peter, “Do Not Be Afraid, from now on you will catch men”**
 - a) This Call is to Actually Bring Men to Life! —Eternal Life!
 - b) To Share the Greatest Gift Ever Give the Human Race!
3. **Jesus said, You are the light of the world...**

Let your light shine in this dark world by telling people the good news!

 - a) That You Are Not Here By Accident
 - b) There is Meaning and Purpose to Life!
 - c) There is a God Who Created You! — Who Loves You with an Everlasting Love!
 - d) You Don’t Have to Keep Running From God under Guilt and Condemnation
 - e) He Gave the Greatest Gift—His Only Begotten Son for You
So You Could Have the Greatest Reward—Free Gift of Grace
 - f) He has gone to prepare an eternal dwelling place for you!

CONCLUSION

Life is a Faith Test: But God chooses the things that don’t always make sense
—He Chose Fishermen to call Emperors, not Emperors to call fishermen
—He Chose the Church—Not the Government to Change the World
—He Chose us for a higher calling—of FAITH, HOPE, LOVE