

When I graduated from HS I had a very important decision to make:

- What I wanted and had always planned (Travel and work with my natural father)
- What I KNEW God had for me (Bible college and train for ministry)

So I did what most of us do...I tried to compromise! Walk the line between Full Obedience...and Still trying to get my way!
Decided I would go to work with my father, and make money for Bible college! Knowing the whole time...disobedient
And, I had the results we always get when we are not obedient: Spiritual Disaster

This morning we see Peter facing that same kind of decision:

- What HE knows and desires
- What Jesus is telling him to do!

Luke 5:1-11

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Finish our series On Learning To Love Like Jesus: Loving the Spiritually Stubborn!

Now I know that this probably doesn't apply to you this morning...but humor me...you have friends and family members that REALLY need to hear this!

1. Obedience Sometimes Requires That We Act Contrary To What We "Know" and Want!

Vs 4-5

Vs 4: "Put out to the into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch!"

Notice something: Jesus didn't say...lets go fishing and see if we get anything! He said...lets go catching!!!

Vs 5: *Master*: More than just a term of respect: It is a term that recognizes authority...(spiritual) over you!

If He truly is "Master" If He truly has spiritual authority in your life...then you submit!

Peter wasn't happy about it...He didn't agree, in fact...went against everything he "Knew" BUT the master said it...so

- Worked Hard: Toiled
- Caught Nothing: No fish out there!
- Obedience: Because YOU say so!

Appl: What do you do when Jesus calls you to something you don't like...agree with or understand?

That's the point of discipleship. That's where we grow, or fall back. That is where we decide if we really: Follow Him!

2. Obedience Is Progressive: We Never Stop Surrendering!

We sometimes make the mistake of thinking...oh...I decided to follow Jesus when I was 12: Accepted Him...Forgiveness
But listen...You aren't GOING the same place today as you did when you were 12! Choices are entirely different!

There is a progressive discipleship that is revealed in the gospels that we overlook sometimes

- Jn 1:40-41 Baptism of Jesus by JB: "Follow me!" They did!
- John 2:2 Wedding at Cana: Servants: "Do whatever he says" They Did! Disciples "Put their faith in him"
- Jn 4:3 Woman @ Well: They have met him, traveled with him, seen miracles...but now there is a call to go deeper. To surrender more of their life, and give him an ever expanding area of influence in their heart and life. He looks at the fishermen...and He tells them the day of catching fish are OVER. So, they pulled their boats up on the shore, left EVERYTHING... and Followed Him. They had been following Him before...now...completely

THE CALL DREW THEM TO JESUS: THE PROMISE INSPIRED THEM TO LEAVE EVERYTHING AND GO

Appl: What is the promise of more for you today?

Fishers of men: Lit: Catching them Alive! Claiming lost souls for the Kingdom of God...what could be more!

3. Obedience Requires A Choice To Exclude Some Things Previously Important To You.

Vs 15

This is not the first decision point in their life. But it is the definitive one.

Up til now they have been able to do both. Jesus is saying: Choose!

There is the promise of something out there...something more...something better. If you will trust me, walk with me

- Catch Fish:
- Catch Men:

You have been doing both...but...my ministry is going deeper...further...The Father has more planned

You can't do it part time...you have to commit. You have to Choose!

This is the point we often fail: We try to do BOTH:

We can't have it all! To fully follow Him, you have to sometimes lay something down!

Illus: 1 Sam 15: Saul and Samuel: Go destroy the Amalekites: Don't keep a single thing: No hold back, reserve, plunder
What is this Bleating of Sheep?

Appl: What is it that God would call you to surrender to follow Him today?

If there is something holding you back...you KNOW what it is...

His Spirit has already brought it to your mind...and you are at the decision point...

4. Obedience Is Enough...Even When There Is No Visible Outcome.

Vs 4: Let down your nets: Peter didn't know when he let down the nets...if he was going to have to clean them again!

Tired...worked all night...caught nothing...Nets were clean...repaired...ready for the next day...Time to go home!

But...He is challenged to OBEY! To TRUST that Jesus knew better than he did...about what he was an expert at!

Unless you are Jesus...let down your nets for a HAUL...there is never any guarantee!

Fisherman "Get" That! That's why we call it FISHING and not CATCHING!
 That's why Jesus LOVED fisherman. At least 1/3 of the disciples 4 of 12...Fisherman.
 They understand that sometimes you don't see results. BUT...If you don't go...you are guaranteed to see no results!
 Illus: This past Thursday: "Go chase the birds." Perfect day! Flat..No wind... Find the birds...find the fish
 3 times...50 or more birds...circling...but not a single fish!
 Appl: You are not always going to see visible results. But that doesn't excuse you from obedience!
 Sometimes God calls us to obey...but we never see the outcome.
 Jeremiah: preached for 40 years...with little to no signs of visible success...called the "Weeping Prophet"
 Perseverance is "long obedience" in the same direction "Eugene Peterson"

5. When We Don't Obey We Miss The Blessing God Has for Us!

Vs 5;5

Think what Peter would have missed if he hadn't obeyed! Here is one of the most amazing experiences of his life
 And because he was unable to see it...didn't believe it possible...Wasn't able to understand or process it...Almost missed it!
 But "because YOU say so!" Oh, he got it right...even if it was grudgingly!

I want you to notice something:

What he would have missed...was two fold!

- The miracle of the miraculous catch
- And the CALL and PROMISE of the future.

The second was contingent upon the first! Peter would have missed them both!

And, he would have missed the biggest payday of his life! (A lot of scholars think this was God's preparation for his family!)
 His father could take the fish and sell them...and they would be provided for with the proceeds.

This is a part of the progressive development of Obedience and Growth. One small act of obedience...leads to a deeper life

Applic: As a point of application: I believe that Baptism is that in the life of the Christian

It is the first small act Jesus calls us to...We don't understand it...most don't fully grasp it...but Jesus tells us to.

Mt 5:21 "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things, I will put in charge of many things."

Applic: What are you missing out on today? Listen...Peter would never have gotten to be fisher of men...fisher of fish!
 The obedience in one small area of life prepared him for blessing in a larger and more important area!
 When you withhold obedience...You run the risk of missing God's best!

6. Obedience Takes You To A Whole New Level Of Spirituality And Blessing.

VS 5:10

- Wildest Dreams were realized So many fish that he called his partners: BOTH BOATS almost sinking!
- But God had more! (If you think catfish are great, rockfish are great, sailfish are great! Try THIS!)
- Catch Men! You are going to spend your life doing something Peter that lasts for eternity:
- That promise...was so much more...that their wildest dreams meant NOTHING! Walked away from it!

Applic: Listen: Some of us are missing God's best...because you are settling for fish!

You think that success in business is gratifying? Think accumulation of things that you won't take with you satisfies?

You think that being important in the eyes of men is significant?

Try this: Give your life to the Kingdom! Be a part of watching a soul saved for eternity!

Lay up for yourself treasure in heaven...so that when you step through the gates of heaven...throng of people

Be important...significant...be a "player" on a cosmic scale..where your life MATTERS in the Kingdom

That is something worth giving your life for!

Peter probably dreamed his entire life of a catch of fish like what he brought in that day...and when he had it...

He heard the voice of Jesus tell him Peter...that aint NOTHING compared to what God is going to do through YOU

And He left his greatest dream...walked away from it...with nothing more than a promise!

BECAUSE YOU SAY SO...I WILL LEAVE IT ALL!

But you listen to me....it wasn't an empty promise!

Three years later...He stood one day in Jerusalem...When the promise was made real

With the power of God upon him...tongues of fire surrounding him

And he preached a message of salvation through Jesus, repentance and forgiveness by the power of His blood..

And when he finished preaching he said THESE words...Acts 2:36-41

3000 souls were added to the kingdom that day...and Peter...he became a fisher of men!

And there he stood...and he had to think to himself...what if...what if...what if...I would have said NO!

CONCL:

- What are YOU missing today...because you are holding on to what YOU know..YOU think, YOU want?
- What are you holding on to...refusing to lay down...that keeps you from receiving God's best? Fish?
- What choice do YOU need to make...
- What thing do YOU need to surrender...in order to see the blessing of God?