

The Disciples Are Called

Luke 5 v 1-11

Context:

Today we begin a mini-series exploring characters in the Bible who were called by God. Calling is an awesome and humbling experience and is never based on anything in or about us, but rather is always to do with God's grace and mercy. Our series begins with Jesus calling a group of fishermen by the Sea of Galilee, which was also known as the Lake of Gennesaret – ordinary men who were changed by God's call and went on to change the world forever. Let's see what happened.

Observation:

1. Describe the scene in v 1-2.
2. What did Jesus do in v 3?
3. What did Jesus say and to whom in v 4?
4. What was the response in v 5?
5. What was the result in v 6-7?
6. What did Simon Peter do and say in v 8 and why according to v 9-10a?
7. How did Jesus respond to Simon Peter in v 10b?
8. What was their reaction in v 11?

Meaning:

1. Why do you think Jesus got into the boat in v 1-3?
2. Why was Jesus' command in v 4 so ridiculous?
3. Why do you think Simon Peter obeyed Jesus (v 5)?
4. What explanation can there be for such a large catch of fish following a whole night without any catch (v 6-7)?
5. Why do you think Simon Peter reacted in the way he did in v 8?
6. Why do you think being in the presence of sheer holiness causes us to feel our sinfulness so deeply? – see also Isaiah 6 v 1-5.
7. Are you surprised that Jesus doesn't push Simon Peter away, sinful though he is, but rather calls him to follow him (v 10b)?
8. Why do you think God calls imperfect people to follow him and serve him? From what you know of the Gospel story, how would Simon Peter repeatedly demonstrate his imperfections as he follows Jesus? Can you name any other similar imperfect people in the Bible who God called?
9. What might have been the costs and the benefits for these fishermen of following Jesus (v 11)?

Application:

1. In what ways does this story both encourage and challenge you?
2. Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed ridiculous? What was it and how did it turn out?

3. What are some of the costs and benefits for us of following Jesus and obeying his call?

Pray:

- Thank God that he calls imperfect people to follow and serve him.
- Pray for God's grace to trust him when he asks us to step out and do hard or seemingly ridiculous things for him.