

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of July 2022

Put Your Faith to Action!

(Luke 5:1-11)

(Sunday, July 3, 2022)

It is said that every fisherman has a fish story. This is one of the most unusual fish stories every told. It begins with the fish that did not get away, and ends with a group of fishermen getting caught!

Jesus was preaching near the little lake of Galilee. The crowd was pushing him back towards the water and Jesus saw Peter's boat close by, stepped into the boat and asked him to push out a little way from the shore. Jesus used the boat for a pulpit and when he finished his sermon, he surprised his friends by saying, "let's go fishing, more out to the deep water and let down your nets."

(Sunday, July 10, 2022)

I. Exhausted Resources!

The disciples toiled all night. These expert fishermen had done all they could do, but their training and experience were not enough. They were trying to do the job they had done many times, but now they had only failure. Without Christ, they were killing time. All they had to show for their night's toil, were tired bodies and empty nets.

How many times do we work and toil only to feel that all has been in vain? We try with all our might to be good neighbors, good fathers, good mothers, good Christians, only to end up with tired bodies and empty nets. This is always the outcome when we operate without Jesus Christ. Peter, as well as all the other Disciples, had to learn that life without Jesus is always a failure! There is only one way to do the work of the Lord – The JESUS WAY! There is only one power that

can enable us to live the Christian life and to bear our responsibilities. It took Peter a long time to learn what Jesus was trying to teach him in the fishing boat.

Peter finally found out he did not have all the answers. He made the great discovery that life is more than human wisdom, and financial security. He discovered that life came to those who have faith in Christ, heart and soul, and gave themselves unreservedly to God. Oh, that we might make that discovery!

(Sunday, July 17, 2022)

II. A Peculiar Command!

“Launch out into the deep!” Fish were caught near the shore, not in the deep. They were caught at night, not in the daytime. Yet, Jesus told the men to get out to the deep waters and let down their nets. Here is a carpenter telling these experienced fishermen how and where to catch fish. The disciples had reason to doubt. Peter said, “Master, we are old hands at this business, and we have been here all night when and where the fish are supposed to be caught, and we have caught nothing. Are you going to try to tell us how to fish?” In spite of this, Peter knew that Jesus was the captain of his boat and therefore said, “nevertheless, at thy word, I will let down the net.” Peter put His Faith to Action!

(Sunday, July 24, 2022)

III. Reluctant Obedience!

“Let down your nets!” Perhaps not one of us is a professional fisherman, but we all have nets that need to be let down at the Lord’s Command. As a fisherman, the nets were a part of Peter. They were what he had in his hand. He did with them what Jesus commanded him to do. Our nets are our talents, abilities, personalities, intelligence, experience, and training. Our nets are whatever we have in our hands. Ours is to do with them as Jesus Commands. We may be as experienced at living as Peter was at fishing; We may know all the ins and outs financially, intellectually, and socially, but if we do not have Jesus, we

will toil through all the nights of life and come up at the end with nothing but empty nets.

Christ calls us today to “Launch out into the deep” of God’s faith, grace, and love. Do you respond like Peter, “But, Lord, all night long I have tried, and I really have not gotten anywhere! Mostly, Lord, I just made a mess. My nets are empty! I am just afraid to try anymore. Nevertheless, Lord, I know you are the Captain and Master of my life, I will do as you say! I will try again!”

(Sunday, July 31, 2022)

IV. A Humble Prayer!

“Depart from me for I am a sinful man.” Peter had doubted the Lord. This confession was in order. He sensed his sinfulness in the presence of Jesus. The nearer to the Lord we walk, the keener we will become aware of our sin. Thoughts, actions, and attitudes that have never occurred to us as being wrong will rise up as ugly monsters in our lives. Peter’s sin prior to this confession was that of attitude. Peter felt that he knew better than the Lord. Now he was asking that the Lord might depart from him.

If we, like Peter, sense that we are sinners and feel as if we should not be in the presence of Jesus, will so confess to God, Christ will clean up the mud of our dirty lives, pick up the broken pieces and put them back together again.

Like Peter, bend before God and confess that you are a sinner and hear Jesus say, “don’t be afraid. From now on, I am going to make you a fisher of men. As I have blessed you, you will become a blessing to others.”