



Obedience leads to blessings

May 27, 2019

LUKE 5:4-8 NKJV – (4) When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." (5) But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." (6) And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. (7) So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. (8) When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

We have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net: Peter could have come up with any number of possible excuses.

- "I worked all night and I'm tired."
- "I know a lot more about fishing than some carpenter."
- "The best fishing is at night, not in the day time."
- "All these crowds and loud teaching has scared the fish away."
- "We already washed our nets."
- "Jesus may know religion but He doesn't know fishing."

They caught a great number of fish: Peter didn't make such excuses, and His faith in Jesus was well rewarded. Peter understood that he probably knew more about fishing than a carpenter did and that he had worked all night without any results. The only reason why Peter did what Jesus asked was because he believed in Jesus, not because the circumstances seemed right. It makes all the difference in the world when our work is directed by Jesus. We can work-even work hard-for a long time with no results. But when Jesus directs our work, we see results. How many harvests do we miss out on because we make excuses instead of doing what Jesus asked of us.

The story shows us that the worst excuse for not doing what God wants you to do is because you've been a failure in the past. Peter had fished all night with no results, but was instantly blessed when the Lord directed His work. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them: Peter had to work with others to get the job done. "Some will rather leave souls to perish than admit of partners in the sacred work. It is an intolerable pride to think nothing done well but what we do ourselves; and a diabolic envy to be afraid lest others should be more successful than we are."

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

So what happened to all the fish they caught? I don't know. Perhaps they were sold to a local fishing company and the proceeds were used by the disciples to help others or for those who were hungry, a meal was in place. Either way, someone was blessed.

SCRIPTURE READING: DEUTERONOMY 5:33

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The definition of success is being what God created you to be.