

Series: Jesus Among Us

Title: When Jesus Steps Into Your Boat

Text: Luke 5:1–11, Isaiah 6:1-8

We've been seeing in our text how Luke has been shining the light on the authority of Jesus and how the authority of Jesus influences everything that has been created. From teachers in synagogues, to demon possessed people to demons and mother in-laws with high fever, we've seen how the authoritative word of Jesus commands a response!

The authority of Jesus is the power His words carry because of who He is... and that authority influences every realm of existence. So the authority of Jesus is directly connected to who Jesus is!

Last week we saw that the authority of Jesus cannot be contained.

This week Luke shows us what happens when Jesus steps into a human life... or in the case of Luke, when Jesus steps into your boat...

The title of my message is: **When Jesus Steps Into Your Boat**

And this morning, we're going to see 4 things that always takes place when Jesus steps into your boat... Here's the Four Things:

1. We See Who Jesus Really Is
2. We See Who We Really Are
3. We Discover the Grace We Desperately Need
4. We Discover the Purpose We Were Created For

As we continue in our text this morning, we're going to see that is exactly what takes place in the life of Peter ... Let's take a look together:

Luke 5:1–11 (ESV)

5 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 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 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Luke begins this story with a detail that may appear to be insignificant, but in reality is quite significant... he tells us the fishermen were washing their nets. That detail tells us something important worth noting...

In first-century fishing, nets were washed after the work was finished. The night was over. The effort was done. The results were in and they got skunked! A big goose egg... zero fish! That's humbling for a bunch of professional fishermen who had worked all day and caught nothing!

Whats interesting is that when Jesus arrived on the scene, they weren't preparing to fish, they're cleaning up their nets after a long night of failure! And it is into that moment that Jesus steps into Peter's boat.

Which shines the spotlight on something really profound about Jesus... He does not only step into our lives when things are working. He steps in when they're not working ... when the nets are empty!

... and its in those moments that we feel most exposed, most vulnerable, most like failures... that Jesus steps into your boat and:

1. We See Who Jesus Really Is

Luke 5:4–7

4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 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.

Imagine what's going on in the minds of these fisherman at that moment! Peter is the professional fisherman.... Jesus is the carpenter! What does He know? Stay in your lane, Jesus! Stick to what you know... But Peter knows three things.

They already tried all night.

Fish are caught at night, not during the day

And the nets have already been washed... they're all packed up!

Everything about this instruction from Jesus makes no practical sense... and yet Peter responds,

(5) Master, we toiled all night and took nothing. But at your word I will let down the nets.

At your word... I will let down the nets... at your word, I will obey!!

And suddenly the nets are overflowing. Fish pouring in. The nets begin to tear as they call out to their fishing buddies, James and John to come help them out...

Prior to this, Luke says that Jesus had sat down in the boat and was teaching them... we don't know what Jesus was teaching them up until that moment... but we know they're about to get a lesson of a lifetime and a glimpse of who this Jesus really is ... because at His Word, the very creation obeys... the fish from every corner of the lake gather into the nets.... And Peter realizes the One standing in the boat has authority over creation itself!!

And Peter see who Jesus really is!

The prophet Isaiah, from which we had our scripture reading today has a parallel experience when Jesus stepped into his boat... it happened about 750 years before Jesus walked the earth, but this event that Isaiah experiences doesn't happen on the earth, but he catches a glimpse of what's going on in heaven:

Isaiah 6:1–8 (ESV)

6 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." 8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

What a powerful scene in the life of Isaiah, but notice that before the temple shakes, before the seraphim cry out, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts"... Isaiah catches a glimpse of Who Jesus really is:

Isaiah suddenly sees who Jesus really is! (6:1)
I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up;
and the train of his robe filled the temple

Here's the Application: When Jesus steps into your boat, the first thing that must change is your view of Him.

Many people think they know who Jesus is. Some think He's a moral teacher. Some think He's a helpful guide. Some think He's a religious figure.

But Peter discovered that Jesus is far more than that. He is the One whose word commands creation itself.

And the question every person must answer is this: Who do you believe Jesus really is?

If He is merely a teacher, you can listen or you can ignore Him. But if He is the Lord of creation, then His words carry authority over your life which then calls you to respond in obedience to Him!

When we see Jesus clearly, everything else begins to change.

For Peter and for Isaiah, when Jesus stepped into their lives they saw Jesus for who He really was... and that revelation immediately brought them face-to-face with who they really were.

2. We See Who We Really Are

Luke 5:8 (ESV)

8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

When Peter sees the miracle, he does something unexpected. He does not celebrate. He collapses.

The magnitude of who Jesus is brought him face to face with the reality of who he really was and he collapses at the knees of Jesus and says, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

I am sinful man, O Lord... did you catch that... something happened to Peter... the lights went on... Before the miracle Peter called Jesus "Master", that was a title of respect for a teacher with authority. But after the miracle Peter calls Him "Lord."

It was in that moment Peter realized he was not simply standing in a boat with a rabbi. He was standing before the Holy One of God.

This is why his response becomes one of fear and confession of sin! Depart from me, for I am a sinful man... he saw who he really was....

Isaiah had the same response. When he saw the holiness of God he cried out:

Isaiah 6:5 (ESV)

5 ... "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" (... I have seen who Jesus really is)

Interestingly, neither man was confronted verbally about sin. They simply encountered the presence of God. And suddenly they saw themselves clearly.

You see, when holiness appears, sin becomes visible.

Peter didn't fall down and say, "Wow, what a miracle!"
He fell down and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man."
You see, the closer we get to Jesus, the clearer we see our need for Him.

And this is where many people stop the process...
Instead of confessing sin, we defend it.
Instead of humbling ourselves, we justify ourselves.

But the pathway to grace always begins with honest confession.

So the application is this: Stop comparing yourself to others and start measuring yourself against Christ.

Because when we compare ourselves to others, we feel good.
But when we see ourselves in the light of Jesus, we see our need for mercy. And that is exactly where grace begins.

Peter suddenly realizes he is standing before someone infinitely greater than himself and he says depart from me ... in other words, I don't deserve to be near you... I don't have anything in and of myself that is worthy to stand in your presence For Isaiah, Woe is me ("woe" is acknowledgement of being under the judgement of God) ... and for both of them, their awareness of who Jesus is, made clear to them who they are... and it's there that:

3. We Discover the Grace We Desperately Need

Luke 5:10–11

10 b. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

I love this moment!
Peter expects rejection... Instead Jesus says four powerful words: "Do not be afraid."

Those words change everything.
Because apart from those words, Peter had every reason to be terrified.
He is standing in the presence of God Almighty, and by his own confession he is a sinful man.

Peter knows he does not have what is required to stand before someone like Jesus. He expects the righteous judgment he deserves... But instead of giving Peter what he deserves... Jesus gives him what he needs. That's grace!

Isaiah expected judgment as well.
Instead a seraphim touched his lips and declared:
"Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

In both moments grace rushes in when judgement is expected!
The sinner expects rejection... God offers grace and mercy!

Jesus does not reveal our sin in order to destroy us... He reveals our sin so He can redeem us. And here is the truth every person needs to hear and be reminded of: The same Jesus who reveals our sin also offers us grace... (7 Churches of Revelation)

There are many people who believe God knows their sin... but they are not convinced He is willing to forgive it... perhaps you feel you've asked too many times... ask again!

The gospel tells us something beautiful. Jesus did not come to expose sinners and walk away. He came to save them.

So the application here is this: Stop running from Jesus because of your sin—instead, run to Him with it.

The very thing you think disqualifies you is the reason Jesus came.

Grace is when God gives us what we could never deserve and could never earn. And that grace is found in Christ alone... and not only does He give us what need... He gives us more than we need... #4

4. We Discover We Were Created for something Bigger

Interestingly, in verse 8, Peter says "depart from me" ... and Jesus responds with a call to a closer walk with Him... there's something bigger than this fishing business for Peter!

Luke 5:10b–11 (ESV)

10 b "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Jesus says something extraordinary to Peter. "From now on you will be catching men." Peter had spent his life catching fish. Now Jesus redirects his entire life.

The scene ends with: They left everything and followed him ... and the rest is history! Jesus let Peter know he was created for something for greater than anything he had experienced... and he left everything and followed Jesus!

For Isaiah, we see the same progression... he experienced the same moment.

It is after the guilt was removed and his sins atoned for that he too is presented with something far bigger than he had ever experienced...

Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Both men moved from conviction to commission. Because when God changes a life, He always gives that life a mission. Grace never leaves us where it found us... but brings us to greater, more significant and eternal priorities in life!

On the surface it looks like Jesus came to fill Peter's nets...But He came to claim Peter's life.

The miracle in Luke 5 is not the fish. The miracle is that a sinful fisherman fell at the feet of Jesus... and stood up a follower of Christ. Peter thought his life was about fish... Jesus showed him it was about people.

And the same thing is true for every follower of Christ.

When Jesus saves a life, He gives that life a mission.

Christianity is not just about being forgiven.

It is about being sent... just like our Savior who went to the world on mission!

So the application is this: Ask God how your life can be used for His mission.

Your work. Your School Your family. Your influence. Your story.

All of it can be used to help others come to know Christ.

Because when Jesus changes a life, He never leaves it without a bigger purpose.

So, when Jesus steps into someone's boat, the same four things always happen:

- 1. We See Who Jesus Really Is ...** and it helps us to:
- 2. See Who We Really Are ...** which points us to:
- 3. Discover The Grace We Desperately Need...**and we walk away knowing...
- 4. We Were Created for something Bigger ...**

Let's Pray