



As soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus. Luke 5:11

Bible Study:



Read Luke 5:1-11 and 5:27-31. Contemplate how men suddenly viewed “worldly riches” as soon as they were given the opportunity to pursue Jesus instead. Notice also, that it wasn’t the learned or powerful religious rulers that Jesus called, but the plain and the despised.

The gospel in the story:



In the case of Peter, when he saw Jesus for who he was, Peter’s sinful heart became glaringly clear to him. At that moment, Peter knew he didn’t deserve to be in the presence of the Lord, and was rightly **terrified**. Jesus, in grace, simply said “Don’t be afraid.” Then He essentially said, your life focus will now change, rather than pursuing worldly riches, you will pursue me and participate as I draw people to me. In the same way, Levi (Matthew) simply walked away from his lucrative job of tax collector to pursue greater riches. Jesus’ words that He came to heal the sick are powerful and comforting for all who come to realize how sick they are due to sin.

Application

Head: **What did we learn?**

- Q: What was Jesus doing by the lake?
A: Teaching the Word of God.
Q: How did Peter react to Jesus’ encouragement to try to catch some fish?
A: Even though he knew better as a fisherman, he decided to trust Jesus and do what He said.
Q: How did Levi react to Jesus’ request to follow Him?
A: He left everything to follow Jesus, then threw a big party to celebrate!
Q: How did the religious leaders react to Jesus?
A: They complained about Jesus hanging out with sinners.

Heart: **Memory verse**

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Hands: **How does this affect the way I live?**

Read Matthew 6:19-21, and discuss how we have to trust Jesus more than our worldly “common sense.” His ways are counter-cultural, but trustworthy more than wealth or possessions.

Discuss how Jesus’ words in Mat. 6:21 “where here your treasure is, there your heart will be also” applies to this story of the calling of the disciples.

Heaven: **How does this affect the way I love others?**

The disciples’ lives changed forever when they answered Jesus’ call; their work transformed to caring about others more than caring about their own needs and possessions.

Discuss how the more we understand the true gospel of Jesus’ gift, the more we want to be “blessed to be a blessing” (Gen. 12:2-3), and to become fishers of men!