

WHEN YOU'VE COME UP EMPTY

Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)

¹One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ²He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."
⁵"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." ⁶And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

⁸When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." ⁹For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. ¹⁰His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" ¹¹And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

HOW GOD RESCUES US IN A DISCOURAGING SITUATION

1. Give Jesus **complete access** to your life

"Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat." (vs. 3)

2. **Admit that your efforts aren't working**

"When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Now launch out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything.'" (vs. 4-5a)

3 reasons we don't like to admit our efforts aren't working:

Pride

Stubbornness

Fear

3. **Obey whatever Jesus tells you to do**

"Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. BUT BECAUSE YOU SAY SO, I will let down the nets.'" (vs. 5)

WHY WE DON'T GO DEEPER: we think it is safer in the shallows

4. **Expect Jesus to turn things around**

"The One who calls you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!" 1 Thess. 5:24 (MSG)

"When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break! So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink!" (vs. 6-7)

PETER'S REACTION

"When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!' For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners." (vs. 8-9)

THE REAL LESSON

"Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men.' So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (vs. 10-11)

We need to be more interested in the "Blesser" than the blessing