

INTRODUCE SELF

MOMENT OF SILENCE

LUKE SERIES SLIDE

Father, give us ears to hear and eyes to see beautiful and true things out of Your Word today. We want to be a people who not only hear your word but take it to heart and let it overflow to those around us. By your Spirit, help us tune in to what you want to say today. I pray this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Before we get into today's passage, I wanted to level with you for a bit. As January winds down, routines have probably settled in even if your house got hit with flu or something adjacent to it. Most days we get up, go to work or school, come home, go to sleep, repeat. Nothing special to it - just everyday mundane routine.

But at some point in the day - whether it's after a hard test, an embattled naptime, a tough conversation with your boss - you may stop to ask yourself, "What am I doing? Where am I headed? Why do I always feel behind and exhausted?" You can't help but feel disappointed in your current circumstances.

Sometimes it can reach a fever pitch in your head and feels like too much to handle. So how do you cope? You begin to numb. You spend hours scrolling through social media. You escape to porn. 1 glass of wine turns into 2 or 3 a night. Though these escapes seem promising, you feel just as miserable as before.

So now you gotta hide - put on a brave face at work, at church to signal to others, "I'm good! Nothing to see here!" You may even be doing good things in your church and community. But inside you're crumbling, desperately longing for more.

TITLE SLIDE: Follow Me: How Grace Strengthens Us for Lives of Grit - Luke 5:1-11 CSB

One of the main characters in our passage today, Simon Peter, finds himself in a similar state - exhausted after a night of fishing with no catches - but after an encounter with the extraordinary Jesus, he sees a life worth leaving the nets for. As we open God's Word today, I pray that we'll see this familiar story with fresh eyes - that we would receive the grace of Jesus and see that

So if you got your bibles, you can turn to Luke 5. If you don't have a bible, please take one as our gift to you, you can find them on the welcome desk just outside of these doors. In the meantime the words will be on the screen behind me - here we go, Luke chapter 5.

Luke 5:1-11 CSB

As the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear God's word, he was standing by Lake Gennesaret.

2 He saw two boats at the edge of the lake; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the land. Then he sat down and was teaching the crowds from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch."

5 "Master," Simon replied, "we've worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I'll let down the nets."

6 When they did this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus's knees and said, "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord! " 9 For he and all those with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's partners.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. "From now on you will be catching people." 11 Then they brought the boats to land, left everything, and followed him.

And that's the Word of the Lord from Luke 5. To catch us up, Jesus has begun to minister through various miracles and teachings and word is getting out. Crowds are forming just to see what Jesus will do next - and while the miracle is not out of step with what he's been doing, it does signal a shift in his ministry.

No longer will his ministry be solitary. He is calling the most unlikely people to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God. And church, it's because of these disciples saying "yes" to Jesus that you and I are sitting here today.

1) Jesus wants our obedience in the ordinary

Let's get a lay of the land here - we have two groups here: the crowd and the fishermen. The crowds are buzzing with excitement, eager to hear the unconventional teaching and maybe even witness a miracle if they're lucky. It's just Tuesdy for the fishermen (difference btwn Tuesdy vs. Tuesday). And for a few of those fishermen, Tuesdy can't end fast enough.

5:1-2 (point 1 at top of slide)

At this point in Jesus' ministry, he could've zeroed in on growing his audience. He was gaining enough traction to build quite the fanbase. But already in Luke, we see Jesus getting away from

the crowds to pray. At the end of Luke 4, the people of Capernaum are begging Jesus to stay but he says “No, I gotta keep moving. I was sent here to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.”

Since he didn't have a physical platform or a security detail to get folks out the way, Jesus commandeers Peter's boat to 1) give him some distance from folks trying to touch him and 2) give his voice some volume - water serves as sort of a natural amplifier.

Knowing what we learn in verse 5 about Peter and his crew fishing all night, I can't help but feel for the guy. Here he is exhausted and probably feeling defeated about not catching anything and then Jesus is like “Hey, can I use the boat?!” While Peter knew enough about Jesus to address him respectfully, that still had to be majorly inconvenient.

Vs. 4-5 (point 1 at top of slide)

After Jesus finishes teaching from the boat, he turns to Peter and says, “Hey, try putting your nets out for some fish again.” Jesus knows full well the night he and his crew had. I can see Peter taking a quick irritated breath before respectfully saying, “Um, yeah, I was doing this all night and I got nothin'...buuut if you say so, I'll put the nets out.”

Whether it was just to humor Jesus or not, Peter decides to obey despite his skepticism. This “yes” from him has major significance but I'm sure he didn't feel that way at the moment - he probably felt like a fool. After all, with his fishing experience, he knew when the fish would come out in droves and it sure wouldn't be in the middle of the day.

Peter was so entrenched in his ordinary that he couldn't see the potential for Jesus' extraordinary work in that boat. Think about the times we've been in that same...boat. The times where we're so mired in our mundanity that we can't fathom God being at work in it. In short, we get used to things staying static and slowly our disenchantment with it all hardens us.

Back to 1

Look, some of you are in seasons that feel a lot like a night shift on the water - maybe you got a good job but you're constantly butting heads with your boss. Maybe you go to bed feeling alone because you got into that same fight with your spouse and you feel misunderstood. (ADD ONE MORE?)

And you begin to think, “There's no way this will change. And even if it does, what would that even look like?”. But also maybe Jesus is calling you to throw the nets out again - to show up to scripture again in the morning, to show your boss kindness again, to move toward your spouse with curiosity again, to have another conversation with your coworker about faith.

Look, obedience to Jesus is difficult - it's costly - it can cost us time, money, even relationships. Not everyday is going to look like “full nets of fish”, so to speak. So it can seem easier to seek

advice from Jesus rather than obeying him. When we seek advice over obedience, we look at the words in here (point in bible) as really helpful when it's convenient for us but not essential when it isn't.

For example, when Jesus says, "Love your enemies", we say "Good advice but they don't deserve my love." When he says "

5:5 (point 1 at the top)

But what happens when we choose obedience? Look at verse 5 again - Peter is on the brink of his world (and almost his boat) being turned upside down. Why does he put the nets out? Because Jesus says so.

But notice, his obedience isn't blind - he starts with honesty - "Master, we've been at this all night." And his motives for obeying were probably not entirely pure - part of him may have thought, "I just need to get this guy off my case." But he does it anyway.

Church, when we obey Jesus and his words, it helps us see that while our circumstances may not be changing, he is changing us. And we obey not to earn love, to earn grace from him - we obey because we've been shown grace and love first.

2) Jesus confronts us with glory and comforts us with grace

Peter's "yes" is quickly followed with overwhelming shock at the amount of fish tearing the nets and filling the boat. This man's gone from "I caught nothing" to "Is this every fish in the lake?!"

5:6-7 (point 2 at top)

This is wild! While there was likely some rejoicing at what was happening, verse 9 says they were amazed, stunned at what had just happened. Peter didn't just dap Jesus up and say "Man, thanks so much for doing this, we really needed this business. You're a lifesaver!" Nor was he just happy and taking it all in.

He. was. In. AWE. Before this encounter, Peter had likely heard about Jesus - two times in chapter 4 Luke tells us that news of Jesus was spreading throughout the whole region. He may have heard the buzz about how drove out unclean spirits and taught with a different authority. But now he knew: the rumors didn't even capture a fraction of what he was seeing here.

This Jesus wasn't just an impressive teacher or miracle worker to Peter - he was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah he and his people had been waiting for.

5:8 (point 2 at top)

The awe Peter felt was also mixed with genuine terror - he was in the presence of something completely Other and he felt exposed. Even though he's saying "get away from me", he couldn't

move. This story has become so familiar to some of us that we forget how appropriate this reaction is.

Think about it - when you're in the presence of greatness, you feel conflicted - you don't know whether to draw close or walk away. When you're at the top of a mountain or the edge of an overlook, you're in awe at the greatness but you also feel small and maybe even insignificant.

To bring it home even more, think about the times you're in the presence of *someone* great. Maybe think of a time you saw or met a star athlete or a crazy talented musician. While you admire them, you're also repelled at how unlike them you are.

When I was 17, I met Jon Foreman, the lead singer of Switchfoot, every Christian's favorite 2000s secular band. At that point, I had been a fan for years and when I met him, I was with my mom and she can tell you, I couldn't get any words out! Look, it wasn't his height or his demeanor that was intimidating - it was the greatness I saw in all the songs he wrote and the passion and precision he performed with.

This is the kind of awe Peter was feeling but on a much larger scale. God calling people to follow him through great acts of power and holiness is something we see multiple times in the Bible.

"When God called the Old Testament prophet Isaiah to be his messenger, he first gave Isaiah a glimpse of his glory, so much so that Isaiah cried out, 'Woe is me!' Which means, 'Let me be cursed. Let me be cursed because I'm a man,' he said, 'of unspeakable filth and a dirty mouth.

When Jesus called the Apostle John in Revelation 1, to prepare his church for what was ahead, he gave John a glimpse of his glory. John, who had been a friend of Jesus in his earthly life, was so overwhelmed at what he saw that he fell on his face, just sure he was going to die!"¹

Back to 2

Why is this God's pattern? Well until we see God as all powerful, we're not going to be motivated to obey Him. If we're not in awe of him, why would we want to follow him?

We may not want to step into this place of awe because when we do, we will see just how unlike God we are. We'll see how sinful we are in light of how perfect he is. And that creates conflict. Maybe that's why you've stopped trying to draw near to God.

Or maybe in order to avoid facing God so exposed in your sin, you decide to prove yourself through doing things *for* him. You think "If I can just be really active in church ministry, stick to the bible reading plan, sing really loud on Sundays, then I can prove my worth to God. He'll have no choice but to love me."

¹ J.D. Greear "Follow Me" // Luke 5:1–11 // In Step #14

You know who was all about proving himself to Jesus? Peter. The night before the cross, he tells Jesus, "I'm ready to go with you to prison and death!" But then goes on to deny Jesus three times not shortly after.

Proving yourself to God is just another way to remind you how unlike him you are. You'll still end up like Peter on his knees before Jesus, saying "Get away from me! I'm too far gone, I'm too broken." Though Peter's awe was right and good, it wasn't enough to change him at the heart level.

When we see the glory of God in Jesus, we are confronted with how sinful and broken we are. But thank God he doesn't leave us there. Jesus doesn't leave us to clean ourselves up for Him; instead he brings comfort through his grace. He could've just left Peter right there to feel the weight of his sin and bounced. But look at what he says.

5:10b (start at "don't be afraid", end at "people.")

You know what that is? GRACE. Peter didn't deserve Jesus' response here but Jesus freely gives it. Not only that but Jesus is calling him into a new life, a life of ministering with the Savior of the world.

Last week, Trevor talked about how grace shows us our spiritual poverty - how we are in desperate need of a savior, we're aware of sin, we see our limitations. And that's where Peter is as Jesus utters these three simple yet profoundly comforting words.

But as Jesus calls him to be a fisher of people, Peter begins to see he's more spiritually rich than he could ever imagine. Though he is confronted by his sin, he is not condemned for it. Though he is limited in his humanity, he will not be left powerless.

Back to 2

City Church, when we draw near the Living God, we are going to be confronted with our sin. We are going to be faced with how unlike him we are.

If you don't let God and his Word confront you in your sin, you won't see the beauty of grace.

We do have to be careful to not let guilt over sin give way to shame over sin. Guilt says, "I have committed this sin." Shame says "I AM my sin."

When Peter says "Get away from me Lord", that's the shame talking. But Jesus wants to call us out of our shame. He wants all of us all of the time. When Jesus called Peter, he wasn't calling him into a job, he was calling him into a life of ministry WITH him. And that's what he's calling us to.

If you are here this morning under the weight of shame over your sin, Jesus is saying to you today, "Don't. Be. Afraid." Peter was changed by looking at Jesus and hearing those words.

And when we begin to truly believe grace is for us, that God is looking on us with grace and love because of Jesus' work on the cross, it changes everything! If you let grace comfort it, it can also strengthen you.

3) Jesus sends us out, full of grit

For context, Jesus wasn't calling Peter, James, and John out of a dire job situation. The fact that Peter had a crew indicated that he was at least relatively prosperous and had a steady income. This makes their response to Jesus all the more compelling.

5:10b-11 (point 3 at top)

They left it all! No hesitation - but what was Jesus calling them into? He was calling them away from catching fish to catching people. In other words, Jesus was saying "You're not just fishermen anymore; now you're going to be calling people to believe in me and the good news I'm proclaiming."

Jesus isn't just trying to make a cute metaphor here. The word "catching" here actually has strong connections to the Old Testament. It means to "catch people alive" which means people aren't going to be destroyed but saved by the catching.

This word is alluding to Jeremiah 16, in which God's people are being punished and sent into exile because of their sin. But the Lord promises to return his people from exile and to show them mercy again.

Jeremiah 16:15b-16a (start with "For" and end with "them")

Look here - the Lord will send fishers who will rescue those who are exiled. And now fast forward to Jesus and Peter - these are the fishermen God promised! He promised he would bring people back to himself and this is how he's going to do it.

5:10b-11 (point 3 at top)

Let's look back at verse 11 again. Look at the sacrifice here. Look at the grit. You know what gives them the grit to leave it all for Jesus? The grace they've experienced - when Jesus opened their eyes to wealth beyond a boatload of fish. They realized Jesus had all they needed.

While Jesus may not be calling us to leave all our material possessions, he is calling us to surrender. He is calling us to leave a life of just getting from one day to the next, from one vacation to the next - he is calling us to follow him and to tell others, "Hey, I've experienced life-altering grace and you can experience it too."

We develop strength and grit when we remember our spiritual riches - that we have everything we need for life and godliness, as Peter says. When we remember that we are dependent on grace, on what Christ has done for us, we can face any trial, any suffering with confidence.

Peter goes on to live a life of grit alongside Jesus and eventually goes on to become a key part in building the church. But before Peter could do that, he actually needed the same miracle to really get through to his heart.

And so Jesus repeats this exact miracle to Peter at the end of his earthly life, and it has a whole different effect. John 21, at the end of the Gospels, right after the cross and resurrection, after Peter denied Jesus, Jesus does this whole miracle again. Peter is out fishing again.

This time Jesus appears to him from the shore and tells Peter, who has again been out all night fishing and caught nothing, to try casting his net on the other side.

It starts with the same problem: Peter's been fishing all night and caught nothing. And in both stories, Peter doesn't initially recognize Jesus. In both stories, Jesus gives the same odd instructions: Go out into deep waters and try again, followed up by, "Now try the other side of the boat."

In both stories, the final cast pulls in a miraculous haul. But there's one big distinction in these stories, however. In both stories, Peter has a strong reaction to each time the miracle happens, but in the first story, our story in Luke 5, Peter tells Jesus to, "Get away from me." But in the second, look what he does

John 21:7

Talk about a difference! In the first, Peter feels so unworthy that he just wants to get away. In the second, he feels so comfortable that he swims back toward Jesus.

What makes the difference? This last one happened on the other side of the cross, where Peter saw just how much Jesus cared for him and how committed he was to him, even when he sinned. Peter had denied Jesus, yet Jesus still came for him.

If anything, his love for Peter seemed even stronger after Peter's failure than it had before. Peter had seen how Jesus felt about him even in his failures.

City Church, are you running away or running toward God in your failures? If you feel like running away, I pray you would see the grace of Jesus in the cross today. That he is calling to you not be afraid but instead follow him into a life of grace and grit.

We want to be a people who never move on from the gospel - the good news that Jesus lived the life we should've lived, died the death we should've died and gave us his victory through the

resurrection. When we keep bringing the gospel back to mind and relying on what Jesus has done for us, we get the strength to face tomorrow.

Before we end today, I want us to remember the cross through the Lord's Supper today - the bread representing his body and the cup representing his blood spilled for us. We take the lord's supper to remember Jesus' grace, that we are dependent on him

- We take it in groups 4-6, one of our covenant members will lead in prayer
 - Not trusted in Jesus? Don't take but observe and be part of one of our groups
 - Is today the day you trust him?
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- Lord's Supper