This SAME Jesus Calls

Mark 10:21-22
21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.
22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

An Unsuccessful Night

• What a dramatic change.
  o This was one of those stories
    ▪ that they would still be telling their grandkids
    ▪ long after they were old and feeble.
  o It had been a time of terrible lows
    ▪ and tremendous highs.
  o It was their worst of nights
    ▪ but then it was the best of days.

• It started like any other day.
  o Their workday started when the sun went down.
    ▪ They were commercial fishermen
      ▪ and that evening they had launched
        o their boats on Lake Gennesaret,
        ▪ as the brilliant sun faded over the horizon
        o and gave way to a beautiful evening.
  o The air was crisp and cool,
    ▪ the weather was perfect,
  o and as the first silvery moonlight
    ▪ began to dance across the still waters,
      ▪ they were all smiling
        o at prospect of a good night of fishing.

• Tomorrow would be a good day.
  o This night’s catch would be enough
    ▪ to make for a profitable month.
  o The rest of the month would be easy.
    ▪ Everything they caught
      ▪ for the rest of the month
        o would be extra.
  o One good catch,
    ▪ on this picture perfect night,
      ▪ would leave them
        o and their families
          ▪ in good shape.
• But, as it turns out,
  o one good catch was
    ▪ much harder to come by
      • than they ever imagined.
• As a matter of fact,
  o not even one lone fish
    ▪ would be snared in their nets.
• They toiled hard,
  o all night long.
    ▪ With their two boats working in tandem,
      • the four fishermen tried
        o every trick in the book.
      • And, believe me,
        o they knew some tricks.
  o They were raised on these waters.
    ▪ Their daddies had been fishermen
      • just like them.
    ▪ They knew all the right things to do
      • on a difficult night to find fish.
• But there had never been a night like this night.
  o Nothing worked.
    ▪ Everything came up short.
      • It was easily their worst night ever.
• It was one of those nights
  o where you really think
    ▪ about giving up,
      • not just on the night
        o but on fishing in general.
  o On nights where you wear
    ▪ your fingers to the bone,
      • where the muscles
        o in your back and shoulders ache
          ▪ from long,
          ▪ unproductive hours
            • of working the nets,
    ▪ those are the nights
      • when you begin to think
        o that there must be
          ▪ an easier way to make a living.
  o There have to be professions
    ▪ that require much less
      • and yield much more.
• Long after the prime hours had passed,
  o as they were still trolling the waters
    ▪ looking for their first catch of the night,
  o they began to talk
    ▪ of selling the boats,
    ▪ selling it all,
      • and moving on
        o to a more reasonable,
          ▪ more stable,
          • line of work.
  o It wasn’t often
    ▪ that they talked like this.
      • After all they were fishermen
        o from a long line of fishermen.
• But sometimes, you’ve just had enough.
  o Sometimes the endless cycle
    ▪ of mundane moments
      • wears you down.
  o Sometimes you are ready for a change.
    ▪ And this was one of those times.
• As the four fishermen
  o pulled their boats
    ▪ onto the shore of the lake,
      • in the early morning light
        o of a brand new day,
          ▪ they were at their low point.
  o Perhaps they were at
    ▪ the lowest point ever,
      • in all of their years of fishing together.
• Their sheer exhaustion
  o was compounded by the fact
    ▪ that, after having labored
      • all night long,
      • without catching a single fish,
        o their work was not finished.
  o The tedious work
    ▪ of washing the nets
      • still had to be done.
• Nobody liked washing nets.
  o Washing nets was mind-numbingly
    ▪ boring work.
  o It seemed to drag on forever
    ▪ and, after a long unproductive night,
      • all you really wanted to do
o was to go find a place to rest.
o Washing the nets only enhanced
  ▪ their foul moods.
    • It only increased their desire
      o to forever throw in the towel.
  ▪ To sell the whole business
    • and go live easy, satisfied, lives
      o with their families
    • doing something that required
      o much less of them.

• It was there, on their worst day,
o at their lowest point,
  ▪ when they were as ready
    • as they would ever be
      o to forever give up on fishing,
        ▪ that Jesus walked into their lives.
o By this time he had gained a reputation
  ▪ as a preacher and teacher of the word
    • and crowds seemed to follow him about.
o Today a great crowd
  ▪ had come out of Capernaum
    • and they were pressing the Rabbi
      o on all sides.
• Finally Jesus stepped up
  o into one of their boats,
    ▪ the boat that Peter and Andrew fished from,
      • and asked them to cast off
        o a little ways from the shore
          ▪ so he could teach the crowd.

• Peter, Andrew, James, and John
  o were religious men
    ▪ and they were aware of this Jesus.
o Perhaps they were even
  ▪ a little interested, themselves,
    • in what he had to say,
o so they took a welcomed break
  ▪ from their tedious task
    • and turned their humble fishing vessel
      o into a platform
        ▪ for the teacher to teach from.

**A Dramatic Change**

• They had no idea
This SAME Jesus Calls

- that everything in their lives was about to change.
- What happened next
  - was the kind of stuff that fishing legends are made from.
  - When Jesus was finished teaching the crowds
    - he asked Peter to launch out into the deep
      - and let down his nets
        - for a great catch.
- Peter was normally
  - a pretty respectful guy,
    - but, perhaps because he was so weary,
      - because they had fished all night long,
        - because they had not caught a single thing,
          - Peter objected.
  - In frustration he said,
    - “We’ve toiled all night long
      - and we’ve caught nothing.”
    - But something about this Jesus,
      - perhaps it was the twinkle in his eyes
        - or maybe it was the authority of his words,
      - something compelled Peter to say,
        - “Nevertheless, if you insist…
          - I will let down the nets.”
- As James and John
  - looked on from the other boat,
    - Peter and Andrew gathered their nets
      - for one last weary throw.
- Peter and Andrew cast the net into the water.
  - They let it fall into the lake
    - as they had done so many times before.
  - Finally, when it reached the zenith of its fall,
    - they pulled together
      - to haul the empty nets
        - back to the boat.
          - That’s when the impossible happened.
- This time the nets weren’t empty.
  - This time there was
    - an unfamiliar weight on the nets.
      - Even more weight
        - than there should have been
          - for a successful cast.
  - At first they were confused.
    - Their first thought was that the nets
• were, somehow, hung up
  o on something.
  o But then the strangest thing happened.
    ▪ Fish began to break the surface of the water.
    ▪ There were so many fish
      o that their nets were overflowing.

• In a moment, it all changed.
  o In a brief span of time
    ▪ their emotions swung
      • from the lowest low
        o they had ever encountered
          ▪ in all their years of fishing
          ▪ to the highest high.
  o All of a sudden,
    ▪ after fishing all night long
      • without catching a single thing,
    ▪ their nets were filled
      • with more fish than they could contain.

• As the nets began to break,
  o Peter and Andrew frantically called
    ▪ for James and John to come help.
• But the catch was too much,
  o their two boats together could not contain it,
    ▪ and desperately they began to head for the shore,
      • hoping against hope
        o that their boats would not be capsized
          ▪ by the tremendous haul of fish.

• What a dramatic change.
  o They were propelled from utter defeat
    ▪ to complete victory
      • in just a few short moments.
  o Their worst night
    ▪ became their best day.
  o Then the unthinkable happened.
    ▪ Jesus asked these humble fishermen
      • to leave it all behind
        o and come follow him.

A Costly Call

• I want you to understand, tonight,
  o the significance of what transpired.
• It was no accident
  o that Jesus showed up

This SAME Jesus Calls
The Pentecostals of Lake City

This SAME Jesus Calls

- where Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishing.
  - He didn’t just come there
    - so he could teach the multitude
      - from the confines of a fishing vessel.
    - He came to that place, that day,
      - specifically to call his future disciples
        - to come and follow him.
  - He was there for those four men.
    - He was there to ask them
      - to abandon everything,
        - to leave everything behind,
          - to walk away from their whole lives
            - and come follow him.
    - He was there for those four men.
      - He was there to ask them
        - to abandon everything,
          - to leave everything behind,
            - to walk away from their whole lives
              - and come follow him.
  - When he found them,
    - he found them after their worst night of fishing ever.
  - They were ripe for the picking.
    - If they were ever going to be willing
      - to abandon everything
        - and follow Jesus,
          - this was the moment.
    - There was likely never a day in their lives
      - when they were as ready
        - to pack it all in and quit,
          - as they were that day.
  - But when Jesus had them,
    - right where you would think
      - that he would have wanted them,
        - he didn’t call them.
    - When they were ready to quit,
      - he didn’t ask them to quit.
    - When the choice was easy,
      - when the cost was low,
        - when it would have been
          - the easiest decision they ever made,
            - he did not give voice to his call.
  - Instead he took them fishing.
    - He dragged these reluctant fishermen,
      - back out onto the water,
        - and compelled them,
          - almost against their will,
            - to give it one more shot.
    - He turned their worst night ever
      - into their best day ever.
He led them into
- the most successful fishing trip
  - of their entire lives
    - and then,
  - when it would be hardest to walk away,
    - when they were more excited about fishing
      - than they had ever been before,
    - when the cost was greater
      - than it had ever been before…
        - That’s when Jesus called them
          - to come and follow him.

It was a costly call.
- It was not an easy choice.
- It could have been easy.
  - Jesus could have taken advantage
    - of their low point.
    - He could have given them an easy choice.
- But instead, Jesus made sure they knew
  - what they would be leaving behind.
    - Jesus made sure
      - that they felt the cost
        - of forsaking all
          - and following him.
- He did not call them at their low point,
  - he did not call them
    - when it wasn’t a sacrifice,
  - he called them on their best day ever,
    - after their best fishing trip ever.
- When they went from zeros to heroes,
  - when everyone was gathering on the shore
    - to see their tremendous catch,
      - when they were the celebrities of the hour,
        - that’s when he said
          - “Leave it all
            - and come follow me.”

Take Up Your Cross

- When the rich young ruler finally got fed up
  - with the hypocrisy of the Pharisees
    - and approached Jesus
      - with an honest and sincere desire
        - to genuinely answer
          - the call of God
    - he discovered just how costly

This SAME Jesus Calls
• the call of Jesus really is.

• We often portray this young man
  o as some kind of hypocrite,
    ▪ as someone who was less than serious
  o about answering the call,
    ▪ but that’s not how Mark portrays him
      in our text.

• After hearing the profession
  o that this young man had faithfully
    ▪ kept the whole law,
  o Mark makes note of the fact
    ▪ that Jesus looked on the young man
      with compassion.
  o Jesus, looking at him, loved him.
    ▪ With those eyes that see to the heart,
      ▪ those eyes that see past the charades
        ▪ and see the real man,
  o Jesus looked at him
    ▪ and saw him for who he really was
      ▪ and Mark said, “Jesus loved him!”

• It was because Jesus loved him
  o that he called him,
    ▪ to forsake everything
      ▪ and come follow him.
  o It was love that compelled Jesus
    ▪ to call the rich young ruler
      ▪ to fully and completely
        ▪ surrender everything
          ▪ and come follow him.
  o Go, and sell everything you have,
    ▪ Jesus said, and give it all to the poor.
  o If you follow me, he said,
    ▪ your treasure will not be
      ▪ in earthly things
        ▪ but it will be in heavenly things.
      ▪ Come, take up your cross,
        ▪ and follow me.

• Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said
  o that when Jesus calls a man,
    ▪ he calls him to come and die.
  o He calls men and women
    ▪ to give up everything in their lives,
      ▪ to give up all of their plans,
        ▪ their hopes
• He calls people
  o to lay their entire lives on an altar
    ▪ and surrender everything to him.
  o The call of Jesus
    ▪ is a call to take up your cross.
• Everyone who follows him
  o must follow him first to the cross.
    ▪ Not just to his cross,
      • but to your cross.
  o Make no mistake about it,
    ▪ the cross will cost you everything.
      • The cross requires
        o complete and total surrender.
• There is no such thing
  o as a bargain basement disciple.
    ▪ God doesn’t run any
      • blue-light specials on his call.
        o It will cost you everything
          ▪ to follow Jesus.
  o But the cost will never
    ▪ compare to the benefits.
• Lay down your earthly treasures, Jesus said,
  o and you will be blessed
    ▪ with heavenly treasures.
  o Lay down the security of this life
    ▪ and you will discover the provision of heaven.
• If you walk by sight,
  o all that you will ever have
    ▪ is what you can see.
    ▪ But if you choose to walk by faith,
      o the unseen benefits of heaven
        ▪ are loosed in your life.
• Following Jesus will always cost you,
  o but the cost will never equal the reward.

Never An Easy Choice

• Mark describes the rich young ruler’s reaction
  o to the real cost of following Jesus
    ▪ with a particularly descriptive Greek word
      • that means to be
        o “shocked” or “appalled.”
  o Remember, he came to Jesus
    ▪ seeking true religion,
he wanted a real
  • genuine experience with God,
    • he was hungry to answer God’s call.
• But he never imagined
  o just how much it would cost him.
    • He never imagined
      • the real sacrifice that was required.
        o He was shocked
          • at the high price
            • of following Jesus.
• There is a lesson to be learned here.
  o Jesus is calling this church to a place of revival.
    • I believe that he is calling us
      • to a season of harvest and growth.
  o But we need to understand tonight
    • that it is never easy to answer God’s call.
      • It’s never going to be an easy choice.
  o If revival was easy,
    • everyone would be having it.
      • If revival came cheap,
        o everyone would pay the price.
    • But revival comes at a high cost.
      • Following Jesus is never easy.

No Convenient Season

• When Paul stood before Felix,
  o in the 24th chapter of Acts,
    • he preached him under
      • the conviction of the Holy Ghost.
• However, when the moment came
  o for Felix to make his choice,
    • when the moment arrived
      • for him to answer the call,
  o he implored Paul saying,
    • “Go away for now.
      • I’ll call for you when
        o I find a more convenient season.”
• There will never be a convenient season to follow Jesus.
  o It will never be easy to answer his call.
• If we are going to wait
  o for the opportune moment
    • to have revival,
• it will never come.
• If you are going to wait
  o for a more appropriate time
    ▪ to surrender your life to Jesus,
    ▪ you will never find it.
  o You will never answer his call
    ▪ until you finally come to the place
      ▪ that you are willing to abandon everything
        o and follow him!
  o Because when Jesus calls a man,
    ▪ he calls him to take up the cross.

He’s Still Calling

• Jesus and Peter would have another encounter
  o on those same waters, years later.
    ▪ After the cross,
      ▪ after Peter had denied the Lord,
      ▪ when Peter was once again
        ▪ at an emotional low point,
          o Jesus recreated the whole scene again.
• This time, as they stood on the shore together,
  o after the tremendous catch was hauled in,
    ▪ the Lord would look Peter in the eyes
      ▪ and ask him,
        o “Do you love this, more than you love me?”
  o Peter, are you still willing
    ▪ to abandon everything
      ▪ and answer the call?
• I want you to know that Jesus is still calling.
  o I know it is not a convenient season for you.
    ▪ I know it will take some sacrifices on your part.
      ▪ I know it is not an easy decision.
        o But that’s the point.
  o That’s the reason
    ▪ why the nets were filled
      ▪ to overflowing with fish.
        o Jesus wants to know
          ▪ if you love this present world,
            ▪ more than you love him.
• Tonight he is challenging us to make the hard choice.
  o Will you lose your life to gain it?
    ▪ Are you willing to make the sacrifice?
  o For some, heaven is hanging in the balance tonight.
• For this church, revival is ready to happen.
  • Will you answer the call?
  • Will you lay it all on an altar?
  • Are you willing to give your whole life to Jesus?