

Burn the Ships: Leave the Boats

January 11 & 12, 2025

All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

Luke 5:1-11 | ¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He 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. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." ⁵ 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." ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ 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. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

BIG IDEA: Real transformation happens when you leave behind what's comfortable and easy.

1. Answer the CALL.
2. Trust through your DOUBTS.
3. COMMIT fully - DON'T TURN BACK.

NEXT STEP: What ship do you need to burn?

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Further Study & Discussion Questions

Getting to Know You:

1. If you could instantly leave behind one responsibility, habit, or role, what would it be and why?
2. Can you share a time when you took a leap of faith in your life? What motivated you, and how did it turn out?

Quick Review:

1. In **Luke 5:1-11**, Peter obeyed Jesus' call to cast his nets again, despite his doubts. What does this teach us about trusting God in uncertain circumstances?
2. Peter left behind his fishing nets to follow Jesus fully. What are some modern "nets" that people might need to leave behind to follow Christ more closely?

Digging Deeper:

1. Read **Matthew 16:24-25**.

Matthew 16:24-25 | ²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Jesus said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." What does "taking up your cross" look like in practical terms today?

2. Read **Philippians 3:7-8**.

Philippians 3:7-8 | ⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

Paul speaks about considering everything a loss compared to knowing Christ. How do you think Peter's decision to leave his nets mirrors this mindset?

3. How do fear and comfort hold people back from fully committing to God? Can you relate to this struggle in your own life?

Putting it into Practice:

1. What is one "net" in your life that you feel God may be asking you to leave behind? How can you take a step toward doing this?
2. Peter trusted Jesus despite his doubts about catching fish. Is there an area in your life where God is asking you to trust Him, even if it doesn't make sense?

Accountability: Who can you invite into your life to help you take this step of faith? How can this person encourage or support you in moving forward?