

Peter's Response to Christ's Revelation

Sermon Delivered on October 6th, 2024
AM Service

By: Pastor Greg Hocson

Text:

Luke 5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, 2: And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3: And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4: Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught [catch]. 5: And Simon answering said unto him, **Master**, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6: And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7: And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8: When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.** 9: For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11: And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Introduction

As Christ went through Galilee, great crowd of people followed Him to hear Him preached the Word of God. Can you blame them? In [Luke 4:31](#) that people who heard Him preached were astonished at His doctrine for His word was with power. Even His enemies testifies that no one ever spoke the way Jesus does. ([John 7:45](#))

After Jesus was done preaching He told Simon to take the boat out in the deeper water and let down the nets for a catch. Peter hesitates and says, "[Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing ...](#)" (vs 5)

At that time Peter and his fishing partners, James and John **were tired and discouraged** due to the fact that they had been fishing all night that night and had caught nothing. **As far as Peter knows there were no fish out there** for they have worked hard all night and have caught no fish.

But I love Peter's response. He called Jesus "**Master**" which is **an acknowledgment of Jesus' authority**. Peter responded to Jesus requests - [nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net](#). He was basically saying, "*I'm not sure if this is going to work, but I respect your authority so I will do it.*"

Here **Peter shows faith in and obedience to Christ** by putting the net down. **He is willing to obey** even though he does not understand and does not foresee any kind of success in obeying Christ's words.

And so they go out and do it. As soon as they put the nets down, what happens? They catch so many fish that **the net breaks** and they cannot pull them in. And so **they call out to the others to help**. As they pull them in and started loading them in to the boats, **the boats start sinking** in the water. **They were not ready** for this and **they didn't have the equipment ready** for this.

Peter and his partners James and John were amazed.

Luke 5:9 **For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:**

They were all amazed at the catch of fish they have taken. These were professional fishermen who fish at this lake regularly but **they have never seen anything like this before**.

This is an amazing story and there so much for us to learn from it. This morning consider with me the **Revelation of Deity**, the **Recognition of Sinfulness**, and the **Response of Grace**.

I - Revelation of Deity

Luke 5:8 **When Simon Peter saw it ...**

What did Simon Peter see? What did he just witness? What Peter saw was **more than just a big catch of fish**. He starts to realize something here that is more amazing than just a great number of fish caught. The size of the catch tells Peter that **this event is not an accident**. How did so many fish come together in one spot? How did Jesus know where the fish are? **Peter doesn't know** where the fish are, **neither does James and John**. These professional fishermen who fish the lake regularly - they don't know where the fish are, but Jesus does! **Jesus knows where the fish are**. He knows everything. He knows where the fish are in that lake. As a matter of fact, He knows where the fish are in every other lake and in every other sea and in every other ocean.

When Peter saw this miraculous big catch **he starts to realize that Jesus knew where the fish and only God can know that**. Only God knows where the fish are and only God can tell the fish where to go. And Peter starts to realize that Jesus is not a mere man but God Himself **for only God can do these things**. Only God can know where the fish are and only God can tell the fish where to go.

J. C. Ryle wrote, *"We see here our Lord's complete dominion over the animal creation. The fish of the sea are as much obedient to His will — as the frogs, and flies, and lice, and locusts, in the plagues of Egypt. All are His servants, and all obey His commands."*

What Peter experienced that day on the Sea of Galilee was **the manifestation of the holiness and power of Christ**. He starts to realize that Jesus was not mere human being but that He was God! **He knew he was in the presence of God of great power and burning holiness**.

II – Recognition of Sinfulness

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**

Peter realizing that he is in the very presence of God and that right there in their boat is **the holy, omniscient, and powerful God**, he fell down at Jesus' knees. This truth is so overwhelming to Peter that he fell down. **Peter's falling down before Jesus was clearly an act of worship.** This is what it looks like when a person sees a glimpse of the holiness and power of God.

Hendriksen wrote, *“When one is confronted with Jesus, it is impossible to remain neutral. His enemies react to his miracles with hatred and reviling; his true disciples, with **homage and reverence**. They stoop and worship.”*

Also remember now, Peter was a Jew, and **being a Jew he knew that no human being should be worshiped.** But Jesus was no ordinary man. And notice that **Jesus did not rebuke Peter for kneeling before Him!**

Luke 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, **Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.**

Peter's response was a holy fear. He pleads for Jesus to leave. This is too much for Peter to bear, and so he cries for Jesus to leave! **This is not an act of rebellion or weakness, but greatness.** Peter is not asking Jesus to leave him alone so he could continue in his sin but because he is so overwhelmed with the presence of God and **he knows he is not worthy to be in the presence of God.**

A realization of God's greatness and holiness produces holy fear.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. 4: **Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.**

When Peter realized Jesus was God, **he became painfully aware of his own uncleanness, and confessed his sinfulness.** A sight of Christ and His holiness makes us aware of our filth. This is the appropriate initial response to divine holiness. Peter realizes that if Jesus knows where the fish are, surely He knows where Peter is. *“If Jesus could see into the depths of the lake, He could also see into the depths of Peter's sinful heart!”*

Doesn't Peter's response remind us of Isaiah when he saw the Lord high and lifted up?

Isaiah 6:5 Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**

Luke 5:8 ... Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, **O Lord**.

Peter had heard Jesus' teachings and had seen Him miraculously healed people but **this miracle overpowered and got hold of Peter as never before**. When he saw what Jesus did in supplying such a huge haul of fish, he recognized Jesus as the Messiah. He had called him "**Master**" in [verse 5](#), but here he called him **Lord**. After seeing Jesus and His holiness, Peter changes **from the respectful acknowledgement of Jesus as Master to Jesus as Lord**.

III – Response of Grace

Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11: And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Praise God, Jesus did not grant Peter's cry! Instead Jesus tells Peter not to be afraid. An encounter with God's power and holiness is **not a reason for us to run** from Him, **but an opportunity to approach Him** on the right basis, in faith and dependence.

The purpose of God revealing Himself is not really about rebuking people and judging them. The purpose of God revealing Himself to us is that we may know and understand Him better **which should lead to greater love and service for Him**.

J Vernon McGee wrote these words ...

"When Simon said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man. O Lord," he was saying, "Lord, you called me to be a fisher of men and I failed. I went back to fishing for fish—I thought I knew that kind of fishing better, but I find that I don't! Depart from me. Let me alone. I am a sinful man. You should find someone upon whom you can depend." The Lord, however, did not intend to get rid of Simon Peter. He was going to use him, and this applies to us also. All we have to do is recognize that we are not very good fishermen —recognize our failures and faithlessness. When we are willing to depend on Him, He will not put us out of the fishing business, and He will not throw us overboard. He will use us. This is an encouraging truth!"

When Jesus said to Simon, "[Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men](#)", it was **not intended only for Peter** or only for James and John, but **for all His children**. This is spoken **for our encouragement and consolation**. It was intended **to support us under that sense of weakness and unworthiness**.

Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

What Peter does not realize is that **admitting one's inability and sin is the best prerequisite for service**, since then one can depend on God. Peter's confession becomes his résumé for service. **Humility is the path to spiritual greatness**.

Luke 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, **they forsook all, and followed him**.

Peter, James, and John received and obeyed Christ's commission. God's revelation prepared them for service!

Closing Exhortations

In Bible times God has graciously and powerfully chosen to reveal Himself through various physical manifestations of Himself. But **today God has given us a different revelation of Himself. It's through the Holy Bible.** The Holy Bible is revealing the Holy God. The holy revelation of God to you and to me. Every time we read the Bible, God is revealing Himself to us. **But some don't see God in it and some do. What is the difference?**

God reveals Himself **to whom He chooses** and He reveals Himself **only to those who fear Him.** God reveals Himself to those who approach this Book and those who approach God personally **in humility and holy fear.**

In [Isaiah 57:15](#) we read, [For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.](#)

The truth in this text is mind blowing. Think of it the God who dwells in infinity and in eternity; **the God who dwells in the high and holy place also willed to dwell in the hearts of men.** But He does not dwell in all human hearts, He only dwells in those whose **heart is humble and contrite.** What is a humble man? A humble man is one who recognize his own sinfulness in the light of God's holiness. **A humble man is one who remembers that he is made of the dust** of the ground and that he lives in the presence of a great and lofty God.

Do you want to see God? Do you want to know God? Do you want to live with God for eternity? **There must be a recognition of one's unworthiness and sinfulness** in the light of God's burning holiness. There must be **a recognition of one's need of a mediator** between ourselves and a holy God.

*Out of Christ, God is a consuming fire!
In Christ, He is a reconciled Father!*

Through Christ, the chief of sinners may approach God with confidence, and have perfect peace.

AMEN!