

Special Summer service

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Read Luke 5:1-11

“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake with the people crowding round him and listening to the word of God, Jesus sees two boats and gets into one of them., the one belonging to Simon Peter.

Jesus then spoke to everyone listening on the sea shore about the kingdom of God, how to be right with God, how to go to heaven.

I am going to put up on the board five words all beginning with the letter ‘F’

The first one is:

## Failed

Peter had failed. What does that mean.

It does not mean that Peter failed his exams, it does not mean he failed to get the best mark in his maths exam, nor that he did not win the fisherman of the year competition no it was more he failed as a person.

We are told <sup>8</sup> Peter .... fell at Jesus’ knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Why did he say that? “I am a sinful man”

He sees himself as someone who has failed. He used to think he was fine, quite a good person really – until Jesus came, the Holiness of Jesus changed everything – Now he sees himself differently – He has failed in being whom he was made to be, failed in his choices.

How often people don’t want to hear of Jesus – makes them uncomfortable – of course He does....

Remember Jesus had said when he had finished speaking, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." How does that apply to fishing?

It is daytime and on this lake deep water is not the place to catch fish, everyone knew that.

Night-time fishing is the best time - and the best place is in the warm shallow waters, that is where you catch the fish. Everyone knows that.

These seasoned fishermen knew that. They were the experts. Yet <sup>5</sup> Simon Peter answered, "Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.

Ever thought “I can cope”, you know enough, are good enough, you can manage without help.

Peter has heard Jesus words and decided to trust Him. – even though it doesn’t make sense - **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 signalled to 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.**

✚ This is amazing, even though the nets broke they filled two largish boats, until they were low in the water and liable to sink!!!

How could this Carpenter tell the fishermen about fishing. How is it that Jesus could do this – he must be God to do that....

✚ Peter in doing his best can do nothing, - But Jesus’ way works! - Have you discovered that?

It hits Peter’s pride! Are you trying and trying to make things work - but it is fail and fail and fail. Relationships fail, I’m stuck in my bad habits, I’m stuck in my bad language, my ....whatever it is - it is fail, fail, fail.

Peter is humbled he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

✚ That is the way to come to Jesus – that is the only way to come to Jesus

The next word is ....

## Forgiveness

It does not say in the passage Jesus forgave him – but he did. Later Jesus said Peter had been made clean. Jesus cannot use anyone who has not been forgiven for their sins.

Are you forgiven? Do you know when? If have not yet turned to Christ to be made clean - for forgiveness – then he is not listening to your prayer requests, - **Maybe that’s why you ask me and others to pray about a,b,c** - he is not guiding your life - you away from God – you are far from God.

That is what the cross is all about. That is why Jesus came into this world so that people could be forgiven.

When he had been rejected, spat upon, hit and hated he mounted the cross and surrendered his Life

As he died he said in a loud cry: "It is ...

## 'Finished'

Jesus had completely satisfied God's anger against every sinner who comes to him. What that means is that you could have done so many things wrong that you think he could never forgive me. My debt is too big, I could never pay it off, nor could anyone else. But Jesus can.

Whatever you have done - he can clear it away. - That's wonderful news.

The next word is:

## Follow

Jesus called Peter and the others to follow Him.

So Jesus calls you, he calls you to a life of holiness, he calls you to a life separate from those selfish ways, and the selfish ways of those around you. He is calling you to give yourself to serving Jesus Christ, Lord and master.

**Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."**

Now Peter the fisherman, - who was not so good at catching fish - was now going to catch men. This is his life's work - and so it is for all who follow Jesus, we are to make disciples x2 of all people. We are to do all we can to catch men and women, boys and girls - for Jesus. Are you doing that??

Everyone who says "I follow Jesus" is to be a fisher of men. Are you doing this? If not then you are the one to be caught. Others need to fish for you!

*British bulldogs in the park, once you are caught you change sides and then start to catch others, we keep going until everyone is caught!*

So Peter's life is Full, it is Fulfilling, it has a Future = it is a life heading to heaven. And he knows now what he is to do. He is to be a Fisher of men.

Following Jesus is a life of

## Faith

Faith is not just having nice feelings about God. Faith is not even just believing God is there, many know that. Saving Faith is following Jesus.

Saving faith is giving up the claims you have on your life and obeying Jesus.

**11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him."**  
(Luke 5:1-11)

That means through thick and thin - in all the hardships - I will still go His way and live His way.

So often we rely on our feelings not the truths about God.

■ [Show three men climbing up a mountain.](#)

I hope you have that kind of faith, strong - and fixed on Jesus > Heaven  
END

**Failed**

***Finished***

**Forgiven**

**Follow**

**Faith**

*See Vis\_123.cdr for imagery*