

June 11, 2003  
Patchogue Church of the Nazarene

## **I Give Up** Luke 5:1-11

**In The Eye Of The Storm** – Max Lucado – **the Steve Lyons story, p. 247-249**  
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I know people like this. Some of them are right here in our church every week. They are people who don't look back; who have given up their own comforts and interests to follow the Lord's call and direction. They are blessed and see God's blessings in their lives and families rather than the hardships and difficulties.

I would like to look at Jesus' encounter with Peter from Luke's Gospel. We have been reading Luke in our daily readings. I hope you are following along with our reading schedule. It helps us to hear the Lord speaking to us more than if we pick our own passage to read each day. Allow the Lord to speak to you through His Word regularly.

A passage about the calling of the first disciples is found in all four Gospel writings, and we will touch of them as we go along today, but I am glad that this week's reading was in Luke as I prepared a sermon for today. I love the way Luke writes and how he focuses on individuals as a means of drawing attention to Jesus. In our text today, Luke focuses on Peter and his encounter with Jesus at the shore of this large lake. In this interchange we get a glimpse, through Peter's actions, at the sovereignty and holiness of Jesus in a way the other Gospels just don't bring out.

Remember that Luke writes his "orderly account" in a unique way. He is not presenting a chronological account, so the stories he documents are grouped in a way that he can make his points clearly to his readers. Chapter four ends with Jesus saying that He must proclaim the gospel message to the other cities as well for that is why He was sent. We then move into chapter five as Jesus continues to proclaim the Word of God to people of the surrounding areas. Capernaum is located on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee or the Lake of Gennesaret. He has now moved along the coast to address more people. He was gaining popularity with His teachings and great authority.

**READ: Luke 5:1-11 – NIV – page** **in your pew Bibles.**

As we walk through these few verses, I want you to be Peter. He is a weathered professional fisherman. He makes his living from this lake and the catch of fish he gets there. If he doesn't catch fish, he doesn't get paid and maybe doesn't eat either. The text tells us that he didn't catch anything all night. They fished the lake at night. This was the best time for catching fish with nets as the professionals did. Here comes Jesus, the carpenter turned preacher/teacher. A huge gathering of people have come to hear what He has to say today. It seems as though everyone wants to get closer to hear better and be right up front as Jesus explains the Scriptures to them. Well ... almost everyone.

Do you know how hard it is to concentrate on what you're saying when people are pressing in and there's noise and movement all around you? This is what Jesus experienced, and then He sees the two boats on the shore right in front of Him. The shore-line and gathering of people created a type of amphitheater. All He had to do is get in a boat and get out into the water a little way. He could then speak and all the people would be able to hear him instead of just the ones right up close. Wait – where is Peter, the owner of the boat Jesus chooses to sit in? The text tells us that he was off washing his nets – not in the thick of things as the multitude. Peter was having a bad day (or night). What might have been going through his mind? He spent all night fishing with his partners and caught nothing. They had nothing to sell in the market and all the clean up work to do anyway. This was not his first time meeting Jesus and hearing Him teach. John's gospel tells us that the day after Jesus baptism He met Andrew who got his brother Simon to meet the Messiah, Jesus. Peter was no stranger to the Law and the things of God himself.

Have you ever noticed that when you are having the worst day and you don't want to be bothered by anything or anyone that is when the Lord sends someone your way to minister to or calls you to some task for the Kingdom? Do you think it's a coincidence? Peter was done – shot – tired – disgusted – dirty – discouraged – and broke. He just got in and has nothing to show for it. Jesus plops Himself in Peter's boat and asks Peter to take Him out a little way so He can teach from the boat. Dude, Can't you just yell a little louder? I'm sure they can hear you just fine from the shore. Do you have any idea what kind of a night I just had? Yet, there's no indication that Peter hesitated at all. Jesus asked and then He is preaching from the boat with Peter. Peter obviously agreed to help. What is your response when the Lord asks a task of you when you are exhausted? Peter didn't want to be bothered, but he obeyed anyway. He gave up his will for God's.

In verse four we read that when Jesus finished speaking He asked Peter to put out for deep water for a catch. Can you imagine? Remember, you are Peter today. Come on Jesus. Tell me about building a table or chair; tell me about the Kingdom of God and Scripture, but don't go telling me about fishing! I'm a professional fisherman. Really! Well, Peter does explain his situation in verse five, and notice that he addresses Jesus as Master or Sir at this point. Again, Peter obeys Jesus request even though he makes a comment. Jesus makes His request with the same authority and promise as His teachings of the Word of God. How enthusiastic do you think you would be to put out the nets, the ones you just finished cleaning after catching nothing, for a catch? Peter simply says, ***“But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”*** Peter gave up his expertise and knowledge and obeyed Jesus at His word. Miracles happen when we give up and obey.

### **It was almost like the fish were directed to them – Incredible Fishing Video Clip**

Verse six describes the resulting miracle when Peter obeyed the Lord. They caught so many fish the nets began to break and help was needed. Both boats began to sink the catch was so plentiful. Peter was blessed physically, materially, and spiritually by his obedience. I could relate this to so many things. Think of tithing and the blessings of being obedient to God's request in your finances; think of ministry and the requests God makes of your time and talent for Him and how blessed you become. There are many ways we are blessed when we obey the Lord and the blessings are usually in both the temporal and spiritual realms.

Let's look at the spiritual effects in verse eight. Peter has a similar reaction to realizing the authority and power of Jesus as Isaiah had in his vision - **Isa 6:5** - *"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty."* Peter realizes his sinfulness before Jesus and can't bear the thought of Jesus looking upon him in this condition. Have you ever felt so unclean before God that you want Him to look away from you rather than at you? It's a humbling condition and one that He waits for us to experience. This would not be the last time Jesus would lead Peter to fish for a purpose in Peter's life. Once when they had to pay taxes Jesus sent Peter fishing. **Matt 17:27** - *go down to the lake and throw in a line. Open the mouth of the first fish you catch, and you will find a coin. Take the coin and pay the tax for both of us.* After Jesus was crucified, Peter was distraught. He decided to go back to fishing. John tells the story ... **John 21:3-6** - *"I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. 4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.* Then they recognized that it was Jesus directing them.

James, John, and Peter all were astonished at the miracle that took place. Luke records this as a special moment for Peter though. The call on our lives is an individual call, a personal call, between you and your Lord, Jesus. Whoever was there at the time, Luke says, Jesus turned to Peter and said, ***"Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men/people."*** Don't be afraid. Whatever God has called you to, you should not be afraid. He will equip you and prepare you and be with you to accomplish what He has called you to do.

Peter knows about fishing, and he is called to fish for people. He knows that you don't always catch what you expect and sometimes nothing at all. He knows that you have to throw back much of what is brought up in the nets, but you keep at it with patient endurance. His life experiences would be just what God could use to accomplish His purpose in Peter's life and ministry. Moses and David were shepherds before they were called to shepherd God's people. God has created each of us just the way we are for His purposes and on purpose. He is just waiting for us to give up and yield to His will. Then we might begin to see just why we are the way we are. It's exactly what God had in mind so we could best fulfill a role in His Kingdom.

Nothing more was asked of them as they pulled their boats onto the shore, but look at their reaction in verse eleven. ***"So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him."*** They weren't asked to do this. They just did it. Nothing else mattered to them at this point except to stay close to Jesus and be a part of His ministry. What about you? The Lord wants to hear you say, ***"I Give Up!"*** We are blessed here and for eternity when we give up and obey Him. We think surrender is a sign of weakness, but it is true strength is we surrender to God and His call to us personally, individually. When you are discouraged and frustrated, give up. When you think you're in control and know better, give up. When you realize you are wrong and don't measure up to Jesus, give up. And, when you are called to follow Him as we all are - yep - give up. He is waiting to hear you say - ***I Give Up!*** Do it now!