

## **Bible Study for Sunday, Sunday February 10, 2019**

**Our texts for this Sunday are:**

- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Luke 5:1-11

### **Opening Question:**

Why, or why not, is “fishing for people” a good metaphor for evangelism?

### **Read Isaiah 6:1-8**

**Background:** Isaiah was a prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah for a long time - from late in Uzziah’s reign – probably about 735 BC through four kings until King Hezekiah in 687 BC. His message centered on the theme of Judgment of God’s people – coming in the form of destruction and exile to Babylon –Isaiah’s role was difficult – and at his commissioning God would inform Isaiah that Israel would not listen. This vision comes at the beginning of Isaiah’s prophetic journey.

Why do you think God gave this vision to Isaiah at the beginning of his ministry?

Would you want to experience this vision – or a similar one – yourself? Why or why not?

How helpful would it be at the beginning of a mission or ministry launch?

- What about in the middle of a project?
- Would you tell anyone about the vision?

What was God doing in verse 7? What might He be taking away?

### **Read Luke 5:1-11**

The mission of Jesus is to communicate to everyday people worldwide the good news of salvation. Jesus called these fishermen to join Him in this endeavor. He didn’t give a sermon or even hand them a Bible track; instead He used an illustration right from their everyday lives. It’s sometimes easy to believe that only “specialists” can talk about faith, or that only those with the “gift” of evangelism are responsible to complete the Great Commission. Yet Jesus rarely relied on the religious leaders of the day to complete His mission; He relied upon everyday disciples (everyday people) to do so—just as He does today.

Whom did God use to reach you? Were they that different from you?

What might Jesus want the people to learn about Himself in these verses? What is your favorite part of this story and why?

What things does Jesus ask Peter to do in this story and in what order? Why the progression, do you think?

In this story Simon Peter was done. He had fished all night and caught nothing. He was “washing his nets.” Jesus told him to go out into the deep and cast his nets.... again.

- Have you ever been to the point spiritually in your service to God that you were “done?”
- Share a time when you were done...but then when you didn't quit you were glad that you didn't.

It has been written that “Fishing for people is a Kingdom principle that should guide our lives. God may sometimes put us in different ponds but our Kingdom objective is to continue fishing.”

- Do you like this statement? Dislike?
- If the above is true, which should be our greater focus, the pond or the fish (meaning the community or the individual)?

Discuss the statement: “It's not that the Church has a mission but that the mission has a Church.”

- How does this statement impact how we understand the role of the church in the activity of God?

Throughout Scripture we see often that human inadequacy is no obstacle for God. God calls imperfect and often doubtful people to do God's work all the time.

- What do you make of Peter's response that he was unworthy and sinful?
- Is this a valid excuse?

What do you make of the idea that God sometimes gets through to us most powerfully when we have failed, given up, or surrendered? Is failure or surrender sometimes necessary in order for God to reach us?

What are some pros and cons (if any) of Christians being **trained** to share their faith?

If you were to receive some *training* for talking about your faith, what would be helpful?

- Why do you think *that* would be helpful?

What is the scariest aspect of being involved in evangelism for you?

### Isaiah 6:1-8

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole

earth is full of his glory.”<sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”<sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.<sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.”<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

### **Luke 5:1-11**

5 Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,<sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.<sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”<sup>5</sup>Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”<sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.<sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”<sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;<sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”<sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.