

In America, we \_\_\_\_\_ the Bible

- In 2005 alone, we bought \_\_\_ million copies - twice as many as the Harry Potter book of the same year
- Annually, we spend more than half a \_\_\_\_\_ dollars on Bibles
- \_\_\_\_\_ of Americans read the Bible at least once a \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ own at least one copy; the average household in America owns \_\_\_\_\_
- Perhaps most telling: not only is the Bible the best-selling book of \_\_\_\_\_, but it is the best-selling book of the \_\_\_\_\_, every \_\_\_\_\_.

We might love the Bible, but do we love the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_?

- We love the \_\_\_\_\_ stuff
- We've built a whole \_\_\_\_\_ out of it

Valuing only the good of Scripture is like \_\_\_\_\_ a steady diet of fast food. It can't \_\_\_\_\_ you.

Valuing Scripture means \_\_\_\_\_ a perspective that rarely \_\_\_\_\_ ours. (Is. 66:2)

We know that the call to \_\_\_\_\_ God's word rarely comes at a \_\_\_\_\_ time.

Let's look at one of those times in Luke 5:1-11

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. They had been working all night (v. 5)
  - b. Peter made sure to say that they'd been working \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5)
  - c. They had \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5)
  - d. They were \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2)
  - e. Bottom line? They were \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. The fisherman were tired and had \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If ever there was a time for \_\_\_\_\_, it was at that moment
  - c. Jesus probably sounded like a \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Jesus spoke without \_\_\_\_\_ and without \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Something about what Jesus said got a \_\_\_\_\_ from Peter
  
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. We need to recognize that the only response to the words of Jesus - whether good or difficult - is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ that happens from \_\_\_\_\_ on wouldn't have happened if Peter had only said one \_\_\_\_\_ in verse 5.
  - c. Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't contain the \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Peter's \_\_\_\_\_ couldn't contain his \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Their nets were \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Jesus called them \_\_\_\_\_ what was an amazing event
  - c. The \_\_\_\_\_ made the \_\_\_\_\_ obsolete

In America, we love the Bible

- In 2005 alone, we bought 25 million copies - twice as many as the Harry Potter book of the same year
- Annually, we spend more than half a billion dollars on Bibles
- 47% of Americans read the Bible at least once a week
- 91% own at least one copy; the average household in America owns 4
- The sales price for Thomas Nelson went from \$2.6 million to \$473 million in 37 years.
- Perhaps most telling: not only is the Bible the best-selling book of all time, but it is the best-selling book of the year, every year

We might love the Bible, but do we love the words of Jesus?

- We love the good stuff
- We've built a whole industry out of it
- The Bible Promise Book is a best seller with sales into the millions, and has spun off Bible Promise Books for teens, women and men.
- Not to be outdone, Tyndale House came out with their line called The Little Book of Big Bible Promises, then specialized it for women, for men, and for seniors.

Valuing only the good of Scripture is like eating a steady diet of fast food. It can't sustain you.

Valuing Scripture means accepting a perspective that rarely matches ours. (Is. 66:2)

We know that the call to obey God's word rarely comes at a convenient time.

Let's look at one of those times in Luke 5:1-11

1. The circumstance was unfavorable

- a. They had been working all night (v. 5)
- b. Peter made sure to say that they'd been working hard (v. 5)
- c. They had caught nothing (v. 5)
- d. They were washing their nets (v. 2)
  - i. This was a time consuming process
  - ii. Nets could be as long as 100 feet
  - iii. Required laying the nets out on the shore and removing weeds and trash as they shook sections of the nets
  - iv. The crowd Jesus drew wouldn't have helped them, and could have been very frustrating
- e. Bottom line? They were done.

2. The command was undesirable

- a. The fisherman were tired and had failed
- b. If ever there was a time for Matt. 11:28, it was at that moment
- c. Jesus probably sounded like a madman
  - i. He was a carpenter, not a fisherman
  - ii. He told Peter to do what he'd already done

1. Some argue Jesus told them to put out deeper than they'd been fishing
  2. Peter's response about being unsuccessful seems to indicate that's not the case
  - d. Jesus spoke without apology and without guarantees
    - i. He didn't ask Peter
    - ii. There are no results mentioned in the command
  - e. Something about what Jesus said got a response from Peter
    - i. Peter didn't even know Jesus, other than what he'd heard of Him previously and what he'd heard from Him presently
    - ii. There was an authority in Jesus' words (Matt. 7:29)
3. The consequence was uncontainable
- a. We need to recognize that the only response to the words of Jesus - whether good or difficult - is obedience.
  - b. Everything that happens from verse 6 on wouldn't have happened if Peter had only said one sentence in verse 5.
    - i. So many times we stop with what we know
      1. "We've worked hard"
      2. "We've seen no results"
    - ii. In God's Kingdom, seeing things we've only dreamed of often begins with a simple trust in the words and authority of Jesus
      1. "Because you say so"
        - a. No guarantees
        - b. Recognition of authority
        - c. The opposite of what we do when we refuse to give the Lord room to speak His reality into our lives
      2. "I will"
        - a. Surely Peter didn't feel any less tired
        - b. An intentional decision in spite of circumstance
  - c. Peter's boat couldn't contain the fish
    - i. He had to get help from other boats
    - ii. The boats were so full that they began to sink
    - iii. When we get past what we think might happen, we'll begin to experience what we thought would never happen
  - d. Peter's life couldn't contain his reaction
    - i. He had a new perspective
      1. Who he was ("I'm a sinful man!")
      2. Who Jesus was ("Lord")
    - ii. He had a new direction
      1. They left everything and followed Jesus (v. 11)
      2. Jesus made a way for them through what the fish could bring at market (Phil. 4:19)

4. The catch was unrepeatable
  - a. Their nets were broken
  - b. Jesus called them away from what was an amazing event
  - c. The miracle made the method obsolete
    - i. We can't look for the same things every time
    - ii. The more we value His word, the less we value the how
    - iii. Hearing - and obeying - becomes most important