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# Repurposed Lives

## LUKE 5:1-11

### Introduction

1. Many of you here tonight know what it means to “repurpose” something — you, no doubt, have done it at some point in your lives.
2. It means that we give something a new purpose or use.
3. Many of you saved something — a piece of string, a twist-tie, a part from something — thinking, I may have a use for that someday.
  - a. As a boy, I remember seeing old tractor tire or a car tire in different yards which people had taken and made into a planter.
  - b. Today, there are those who take those large steel storage containers and repurpose them as small sheds or even tiny houses.
7. Tonight, I want to look at four of Jesus’ disciples, men who were fishermen, but later became “fishers of men.”
8. If you brought your Bible with you tonight, turn with me to Luke 5.
  - a. One day, Jesus was preaching by the Sea of Galilee.
  - b. Peter and his brother Andrew were mending their nets after a night spent fishing.
  - c. The crowd was pressing in on Jesus, so He got into Peter’s boat, sat down and began to teach — He repurposed Peter’s boat.
  - d. When He finished His lesson, He told Peter, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch” (v. 4).
  - e. Peter said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets” (v. 5).

- f. Suddenly, they caught such a great quantity of fish that their nets began to break.
  - g. They “signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them” (v. 6).
  - h. Both boats began to sink from being overloaded with fish.
  - i. Peter fell down at Jesus “knees” and said, “Go away from me Lord for I am a sinful man!” (v. 8).
  - j. Jesus said, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men” (Luke 5:10).
9. The path from fishing for fish to fishing for men was not an easy one for the disciples.
10. Let’s look at their journey. Along it, I think we will see some of our own struggles as well.

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## I. Growing The Faith Of The Disciples

### A. JESUS STILLS THE SEA (LUKE 8:22-25; MARK 4:35-41)

- 1. “Let’s go over to the other side of the lake” (Luke 8:22).
- 2. Jesus fell asleep on a cushion in the back of the boat.
- 3. A fierce windstorm descended upon the lake causing great waves to crash against the boat — it began to fill up with water.
- 4. Out of fear, the disciples came to Jesus,
  - a. “Master, Master, we are perishing” (Luke 8:24).
  - b. “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38).
- 5. Jesus “got up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Hush, be still.’ And the wind died down and it became perfectly calm” (Mark 4:39).
- 6. Then He turned to the disciples and said,

- a. “Where is your faith?” (Luke 8:25)
  - b. “Why are afraid? How is it you have no faith?” (Mark 4:40)
7. They asked each other, “Who is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (Mark 4:41).

**2a****B. JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER (MATTHEW 14:22-33)**

1. On another occasion, after Jesus fed 5,000 men, not counting the women and children, “He made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side, while He sent the crowds away” (Matthew 14:22).
2. “He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray” (v. 23).
3. Meanwhile the disciples were having a difficult time rowing across the sea because the waves were beating against the boat.
4. Sometime, between 3-6 a.m. Jesus came toward them walking on the sea.
5. When they saw Him they became afraid because they thought they were seeing a ghost (v. 26) — “they cried out in fear.”
6. Jesus said, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid” (v. 27).
7. Peter said, “Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water” (v. 28).
8. Jesus said, “Come!”, so Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water toward Jesus.
9. When he looked at the wind, He became afraid and began to sink. He cried out, “Lord, save me!” (v. 30).
10. As Jesus took hold of Peter’s hand to pull him out of the water, He said to Peter, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31)
11. As soon as Jesus and Peter “got into the boat, the wind stopped” (v. 32).

12. The other disciples in the boat said, "You are certainly God's Son!" (v. 33).

**2b**

### **C. THE DISCIPLES ARE BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND**

1. Capernaum (John 6:66-69)

- a. "Many of the disciples withdrew and were not walking with Him anymore" (v. 66).
- b. "So Jesus said to the twelve, 'You do not want to go away also, do you?'" (v. 67).
- c. "Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God'" (vv. 68-69).

2. Caesarea Philippi (Matthew 16:13-16)

- a. "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (v. 13).
- b. "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets" (v. 14).
- c. "But who do you say that I am?" (v. 15).
- d. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (v. 16).

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## **II. Disappointing Moments**

### **A. JAMES AND JOHN IN SAMARIA (LUKE 9:51-56)**

1. In the final days of His ministry, as Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, He was traveling through Samaria.
2. He sent some messengers ahead of Him to make arrangements in one of the Samaritan villages, so they could rest for the night.

3. However, the Samaritans wouldn't let Him stay there because Jesus was going to Jerusalem.
4. When James and John learned of it, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" (v. 54).
5. Jesus turned and rebuked them, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them" (vv. 55-56).

### **B. THE CONTINUAL ARGUMENT OVER GREATNESS (MATTHEW 18:1-5; MARK 9:33-37; LUKE 9:46-48; 22:24)**

1. There were also those times when they argued over who was the greatest among them.
2. One time in Capernaum, (Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48), they got into "an argument over which of them was the greatest" (v. 46).
3. Jesus took a child, stood him by His side, and said to them, "Whoever receives this child in My name receives Me, and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me; for the one who is least among all of you, this is the one who is great" (v. 48).
4. The last time this happened was when they were on their way to the Garden, the evening of Jesus' arrest (Luke 22:24-27):
  - a. Luke said, "there arose . . . a dispute among them as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest" (v. 24).
  - b. Among some other things Jesus said was this, "the one who is the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the servant" (v. 26).

**C. PETER, JAMES & JOHN, ASLEEP IN THE GARDEN (MARK 14:32-41)**

1. Jesus knew that Judas was about to betray Him and that He would be arrested.
2. He needed time alone with His Father, so He and His disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane.
3. There, He left eight of His disciples on the outskirts of the Garden while He took Peter, James and John with Him, further into the Garden.
4. He told them, “My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch” (v. 34).
5. Three times He went further into the garden to pray — three times He came back to find them sleeping.
  - a. Once He asked Peter, Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?” (v. 37).
  - b. The second time, Mark tells us they just couldn’t keep their eyes open.
  - c. The third time He asked, “Are you still sleeping and resting?” (v. 41).
10. The question we have to ask at this point is “Will these men ever become what Jesus had called them to be?”

**D. PETER’S DENIAL (MATTHEW 26:31-35; MARK 14:27-31; LUKE 22: 54-62; JOHN 18:12-18, 24-27)**

1. On the way to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His disciples, “You will all fall away because of Me this night” (Matthew 26:31).
2. Peter said, “Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away” (v. 33).
3. Jesus said to him, “Truly I say to you that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times” (v. 34).
4. Peter said to Him, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You.” (v. 35)

5. “All the disciples said the same thing too” (v. 35).
6. However, later, as Jesus was being led away by those who had come to arrest Him, we encounter some of the saddest words in Scripture recorded by Matthew (26:56) and Mark (14:50): “They all left Him and fled.”
7. Peter and John followed at a distance, as Jesus was taken back into Jerusalem to the home of Annas, the former high priest.
8. John was able to get into the courtyard of Anna’s home, and have Peter admitted as well.
9. Here, Peter was confronted by three different people:
  - a. The slave-girl who kept the door said to him, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?’ He said, “I am not.” (John 18:17).
  - b. Peter moved away from there to a charcoal fire where the slaves and the officers were warming themselves, because it was cold. Some of them said to him, “You are not also one of His disciples, are you?” He denied it, and said, “I am not.” (John 18:25).
  - c. Finally, one of the slaves of the high priest, who had been in the Garden when Jesus was arrested, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” (John 18:25).
  - d. Peter denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.
  - e. At this exact moment, Jesus was being led across the courtyard to the home of Caiaphas. He turned and looked at Peter (Luke 22:61).
  - f. When Peter saw him, he remembered what Jesus had said. “He went out and wept bitterly” (Luke 22:62).
10. By 9:00 a.m. the next morning, Jesus had been nailed to a cross — by 3:00 p.m. He had died.
11. What happened?
  - a. These men had been with Jesus for some 3 ½ years.
  - b. They had seen Him perform miracles which had never been done

before.

- c. Peter, James and John had been privileged to go into the home of Jairus and watch Jesus raise his daughter from the dead (Mark 5:22-24, 35-43).
- d. They were also the only three which Jesus took up on the Mount of Transfiguration — they saw Moses and Elijah.
- e. Where was their faith? How could they now abandon Him?

### **III. All Was Not Lost**

#### **A. ANOTHER CATCH OF FISH (JOHN 21:1-17)**

1. On the morning of Jesus' resurrection, when the women went back into Jerusalem to tell the disciples that His body was gone, the men did not believe them.
2. It wasn't until they saw Him for themselves that they believed.
3. They went to Galilee as Jesus had told them to do, and there Peter decided to go fishing — Thomas, Nathanael, James & John, and two others from among the disciples joined him (John 21:2).
4. They fished all night and caught nothing.
5. The next morning, there was a lone figure standing on the shore.
6. He asked them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" (John 21:5). They said, "No."
7. The person said, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." (v. 6).
8. Don't you know that something must have sounded familiar, but they still did not realize who it was.
9. Then something happened. They caught so many fish in their net that they could not pull it into the boat.



10. John said, "It is the Lord." Peter immediately put on his outer garment and "threw himself into the sea" (John 21:7).
11. He swam 100 yards to the shore with the others following, dragging the net behind their boat (John 21:8).
12. When they arrived at the shore they saw a charcoal fire and some fish already laid out.
13. Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught" (John 21:10).
14. Peter went down to the boat, grabbed the net and pulled it to the shore, "full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three" (John 21:11).
15. Following their meal together, Jesus spoke to Peter and asked him three times, "Do you love me?"
16. In all that took place that morning, we see a love which would not let these men go.

## **B. A REPURPOSED FISHERMAN — PETER**

1. On Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' crucifixion, and a week after Jesus ascended back to His Father, Peter stood before a crowd of several thousand people who had heard a strange sound and come to find out its cause.
2. No longer was he a man filled with fear.
3. His life was one with renewed purpose. Now, he was fishing for the souls of men.
4. As he drew toward the end of his sermon, Peter said, "let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified" (Acts 2:36).
5. That day, 3,000 souls were added to the body of Christ.
6. Truly, Peter and the rest of the disciples had become fishers of men.

## Conclusion

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1. Tonight, we have looked at Jesus' disciples and how Jesus repurposed their lives.
2. The real question in all of this is will you allow God to repurpose your life?
3. If He can change men like Peter, Andrew, James and John, He can change any one of us.
4. Will you choose to become a disciple of Jesus Christ and work with Him to bring others to Christ?