

Sermon Notes
Burn the Ships by Steven Christopher | Luke 5:1-10
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Tension: When was the last time you were stopped dead in your tracks because you were in awe of something?

Resolution: Our overarching point today is: **Jesus calls those he catches to leave everything behind and follow him on His mission.**

Luke 5:1-3 NIV One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

These verses set the scene for a majestic encounter of Jesus. A large crowd presses in on him as he shares about God's Kingdom.

Luke 5:4-5 NIVUK When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.' Simon answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.'

Everything changes when Jesus says so.

Luke 5:6-7 NIV When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So, they signaled 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.

The disciples were caught by Jesus.

Luke 5:8-9 NIV When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken

The disciples were commissioned by Jesus.

Luke 5:10 NIV and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

Revelation 7:9-10 NIV After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

The disciples were committed to Jesus.

Luke 5:11 NIV So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Application: -----

So, the question stands for us today: **What is Jesus calling us to leave behind in order to follow him?**

Sermon Discussion Questions

Burn the Ships I Steven Christopher

Scripture passages: Luke 5 :1-10, Revelation 7 :9-10

Have different people read the verses above aloud, prior to beginning group discussion.

Icebreaker – Share about the last time you experienced awe or wonder?

1. What do we learn about the character of God from these verses &/or this sermon? How do the attributes of God described in these scriptures influence your view of Him?
2. How do you think Simon Peter felt when Jesus told him to let down the nets after an unsuccessful night of fishing? (verse 4)
3. What does Peter's first response reveal about his attitude toward Jesus? (verse 5)
4. How did the miraculous catch of fish change Peter's understanding of who Jesus was? Why do you think Peter responded with an awareness of his own sinfulness instead of simply celebrating the miracle? (verses 6-9)
5. Who can share a time when God asked you to trust Him even when His instructions didn't seem to make sense? What happened?
6. Is there an area of your life where you've been saying, "I've already tried that," instead of, "Yes, Lord, because You say so"?
7. What are some things that can keep you from fully following Jesus today (apathy, comfort, depression, fear, control, success, busyness, pride, relationships, technology, unforgiveness, finances, etc.)?
8. Jesus first caught the disciples before He commissioned them. Why is that order important?
9. Discuss Jesus' do and don't response to Peter in verse 10. Do you struggle with commitment to or fear of Jesus' mission? (Revelation 7:9-10)

For further application:

- Memorize Psalm 145:4-5 or Psalm 8: 3-4 this week individually or as a small group.
- Prayerfully consider: what is Jesus calling you to leave behind and let go of to follow Him more fully?
- Where is one specific call of obedience you sense Jesus inviting you to take this week?
- Pray for your heart to trust and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit this week. Pray for those who have been commissioned and are serving on the Mexico Missions trip this week!
- Invite a new neighbor, college student or elderly friend to your July 4th Celebration or next fellowship gathering!