

Sermon Series: TRANSFORMATION

Sermon: Just Say Yes

Text: Luke 5:1-11

Discussion Questions:

What is something you would attempt if you were promised by God that there is absolutely no way you would fail?

What is something you would try if you were promised by God that you would not be hurt or injured in any way?

What is something you would do if God made it clear that cost was no issue—every bill or expense would be completely paid for?

What if you sensed God calling you to go to a foreign country, and He promised you that many people would become believers in Christ and would inherit eternal life. Would you go?

What if God told you that 10,000 people would be saved, but that you would lose your life. Would you go? What if it were 1,000 people...or 100...or 10...or 1?

Examination:

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

- Luke 5:11 has to be one of the most remarkable verses in the entire Bible: *“So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.”* When Luke says that they “left everything,” do you think he means literally? Was Luke just describing what they did that particular moment, or was this a radical change of life? Did they leave their boat simply sitting there on the shoreline? Do you think they went back and got their boats later? What do you think the text means by “everything”? Does “everything” include their families, their homes, their careers, etc.?
- At what point does a remarkable event (vv. 6-8) go from being what we might call “amazing” - to being a flat-out miracle? Have you ever experienced a miracle?
- What is it about verse 8 that indicates that Peter believed this to be a miracle?
- In verse 5, Peter calls Jesus “Master.” In verse 8, he calls Him “Lord.” What do you think Peter meant by calling Jesus Lord?
- Why did Peter immediately move to considering himself a sinful man in Jesus’ presence?
- What did Jesus mean by the phrase, *“...fish for people”*?
- Which brings us back to verse 11 – what had Jesus done to cause Peter to consider leaving his boat (and everything!) on the shoreline to follow Jesus?
- Do people still make this kind of a choice when it comes to being a follower of Jesus? Is this something you would ever consider doing?

Jump back into the Old Testament. Read **Exodus 3:1-4:17**.

- Have you ever considered all the things that occurred at Mount Horeb?
 - *“Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to **Horeb**, the mountain of God.” Exodus 3:1*
 - *“I will stand there before you by the rock at **Horeb**. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.” Exodus 17:6*
 - *Remember the day you stood before the Lord your God at **Horeb**, when he said to me, “Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach them to their children.” Deuteronomy 4:10*

The burning bush; water from a rock; fire from the mountaintop and the ten commandments all happened at Mount Horeb (as well as the place where Elijah ran to in **1 Kings 19** - when he experienced God in the gentle whisper). And this place just so happened to be on *“the far side of the wilderness”*! Is there any significance to the fact that all of these things happened in exactly the same place? Can we learn anything from the fact that it was so isolated and out of the way?

- Peter fell at Jesus’ knees in the boat after the miracle of the fish (Lk 5:8)—and Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God (Ex 3:6). How does a holy sense of fear open our hearts to hearing the call of God?
- Peter was called to fish for men, and Moses was called to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. How do both of these “calls” reflect God’s heart to save lost people?
- This is where the similarities seem to end between these two stories. Peter “pulls his boat up on shore, leaves everything, and follows Jesus.” Moses - *makes excuses*. Take a closer look at the excuses Moses offers up:
 - **Exodus 3:11**
 - **Exodus 3:13**
 - **Exodus 4:1**
 - **Exodus 4:10**
 - **Exodus 4:13**
- Why do you think Moses made so many excuses?
- What do you make of how God answered Moses’ objections?
- Why did God ask Moses what was “in his hand” (Ex 4:2-3)?
- What comfort do you think it brought Moses when God said, *“I will help both of you speak, and will teach you what to do.”* (Ex 4:15)?
- What comfort do you think the staff in Moses’ hand brought him (v. 17)?

Application:

What about you...what is God calling you to do? Have you experienced any miracles that God might be using to get your attention? What is it that is “in your hand” that God might be wanting you to “throw down” so that He can use it for His glory? Do you believe God wants to use you to rescue others (or are you just too “ordinary”)? Are you willing to say yes?