

Fish Counters

I. Making God safe

- A. The unhealthy way to fear God is to try and make Him more safe
 - 1. This kind of fear is not only in reaction to the OT response to God
 - 2. Look at the apostle Peter (**Luke 5:1-11**)
 - a. Peter realizes who Jesus is... and Peter realizes how sinful he is
 - b. Perhaps Luke is being cynical- (**Luke 4:38-41**)
 - 3. So why does Peter react (recognize the power and holiness of XP) the way he does on the fishing boat?
 - a. Perhaps it's the look in Jesus' eyes
 - b. Jesus is not here to fill up boats with fish... is He?
 - c. Sort of a dangerous look that says "follow me"
- B. Peter realizes that the blessing of fish is Jesus calling him to follow and he struggles
 - 1. This happens to us... Jesus comes and blesses and we have a tendency to ask Him to leave us... but when things get scarce, We call on Him
 - 2. We have a pattern that works something like this... When we have before us a decision about a new job-- higher pay, more clout, or an opportunity to buy a bigger or better house, or to decide to invest or spend an inheritance, we tend to make these decisions on our own. Few of us rarely seek honest, prayer counsel.
 - a. After all these are private matters!
 - b. But when we're in trouble, we ask, beg God and His people to help fill our boats!!
 - c. I have never had anyone ask me how to handle their investments, but I have had many come to me for prayers, regarding their financial difficulties.
 - To pray that their bankruptcy might be avoided and somehow still have some fish on the boat

II. Going Back

- A. After Jesus' death-- curiously Peter goes back to his boat (**John 21:1-6**)
 - 1. Peter recognizes that it's Jesus
 - a. Jumps out of the boat to swim to Jesus
 - b. **John 21:15-19** (follow me)
 - 2. Why was Peter back in the boat anyway?
 - a. Borderland!! (safer land)
 - b. We find ourselves doing the same thing **2Pe 2:22**
 - 3. Why do people get close to God?
 - a. Why do you?
 - b. At my gut level-- I dare say that the God we're looking for is the God who follows me.
 - Comes into my boat
 - Fills up my nets
 - c. But I fear that this God gives no options but to "Follow Me"
 - 4. If we don't follow Jesus... we know what will happen to us...
Sit on wet stones and count dead fish
- C. James and John call on Jesus do do whatever they ask Him
 - Mark 10:35-37**-- Jesus essentially tells them no
 - Mark 10:46-52**

Conclusion: Why do you want to get close to Jesus?

- 1. What do you want Him to do for you?
 - a. Some want to lead the way... sit at His right and His left
 - b. But some come so that they can simply see and follow
- 2. Wanting to get close to Jesus only tells half the story
 - a. The movement towards Jesus begs interpretation
 - b. Our motive needs to be searched
- 3. "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asks.
 - a. So much depends on our answer **Psa 61:1-2**