

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

January 6, 2019

LUKE

How God Sees Us

Luke 5:1-11

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

⁸ *But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"* Luke 5:8

DISCUSSION

As we begin this new year, we regularly do so with goals that we are destined to not be able to keep. Instead of setting the typical goals of health, happiness, and fitness, Thomas challenges us that as we plan the new year, let us instead ask what God has planned for us.

How do your new year's goals usually look? How well are you usually able to carry them out?

Think about how can you experience more abundance, joy, and peace this year—with your focus on each of the following concepts:

- ***What practices might help you encounter and experience God more closely this year?***
- ***Trusting the truth that God's call and purpose is available to each of us, how can you better shape your goals to discern your calling for this year?***

Simon Peter responds to Jesus' miraculous help in filling their boats with fish after an unsuccessful attempt at fishing in an unexpected way, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

Are you surprised by Peter's comment? How do you think you would have responded, knowing you were in the presence of the Divine?

Note how Jesus does NOT respond to Peter's comment, which is the same way in which He responds to us. Think about and discuss each of these truths, and what they mean to you:

- *Jesus does NOT guilt or shame Peter, confirming his unworthiness. Manipulating through guilt and shame is unfortunately common, and though it may change a behavior temporarily, but it doesn't have the ability to produce real change in a person.*
- *Jesus doesn't contradict Peter and try to convince him of his worthiness. Thomas refers to a recent study of freshmen religious students, most of whom accept all religious doctrine but that of sin. Instead, most believe they can choose to reject the notion of sin and that religion for them can instead serve to teach them how to "be a better moral person."*

*When we are able to admit the truth that we are equally capable of great beauty and great sin, we move closer to God and the opportunity for Him to respond by giving us purpose. With this comes the ability to reflect the love that God has for us, in spite of our brokenness, to those around us. **How will you be a fisher of men in 2019?***

PRAYER

*Dear Heavenly Father, as we enter this new year, help us to embody Christ's presence in our lives. Lead us as we strive to live lives of joy, peace, and purpose, loving others as You first loved us. **Amen.***