

Luke 5 relates the miracle of the increase in the lives of some common fishermen. If you are journeying in your marriage or family and you truly want to see change and transformation this account is a good one to study. It's about seeing God bring some answers into your life. If you want your faith brought to a new level, it only comes by hearing the word of God. In its truest form it does not return void. Maybe in your marriage you're tired, in raising your kids you're tired, your financial situation isn't working out and pastor says, "Just pray a little more. Keep pressing through. Come out to prayer meeting, get into a CARE group and share." Peter is tired and wanting sleep and Jesus comes along and says, "Push your boat out a little."

Test #1 Will You Do Something? Even though you're tired and fatigued are you still willing to do something? Sometimes we're so tired, we won't do anything.

Jesus knows Peter is tired yet He asks anyway. Does that sound like your God?

Jesus knows I'm tired, He wouldn't ask me to do that. The key to the story is that even tired and disappointed, Peter was willing to do *something* that Jesus said. Some of us are cut off right there because we won't do anything. Forget about the miracle; forget about any transformation. If we're not willing to do the little thing He asks, why would He trust us with the big things?

Test #2 Will U Do What I Tell U? Jesus increases the request. Like Mary, Peter says, "Because You say so I will." God may call us to something that we don't understand and if we wait for everything to line up, we may never step into what He call you to because it's a step of faith, sometimes we have to risk. When we truly see God, there is no limit to what we will do. It's when we focus on our circumstances or the risk that we are held back. We need to turn the magnifying glass around and rather than looking at our problems, look at the bigness of our God. Problems are still real but not so significant when we compare them to our big and awesome God. Sometimes we have to exercise a little faith, sometimes He calls us to exercise a little more faith and go a little deeper. God rewards faith. And when we shrink back or refuse to do what He asks of us we limit Him and He can't work. Some of us will never see God's deliverance because we won't go deeper. Underline these words in Luke 5:5. "Nevertheless, at your word, I will." We need to get a word from God for ourselves concerning our situation. God is always speaking, we're just not always listening. We have to live with a plan, His plan. We are so feeling oriented when we need to be faith oriented. There are things we need to do because they are part of our role; even if we don't feel like it. As Christians we need to read the Word, we need to pray; we need to gather together with God's people.

Test #3 Will U Give Me the Glory? If God is going to do something miraculous in our lives will we give Him the glory? The account tells us that a carpenter by trade told a professional fisherman how to fish. Peter knew enough to know that Jesus preached with authority. His choice to do what Jesus said brought a reward that was unexpected. It filled not one but two boat with a harvest that threatened to sink them. Wouldn't you like to see that kind of harvest in your life? We're talking about God blessing us so much that we have to share. Many of us lack God's blessing because we have no intention of sharing, we want to keep it for ourselves. It's about an inflow for an outflow; faithful with a little, trusted with more. If Peter had not called out for help and shared the harvest, the boats would have sunk and the catch would have gotten away. Some of us have experienced that kind of loss because we have not shared what God gave us, and now it's gone. We think if God will do this then we'll do that. No we won't. When we really see God, the

miracle's not important anymore. North American Christians live for miracles. Peter got the miracle and then asked the miracle worker to go away. Peter has an Isaiah moment. He saw his own sin. We won't acknowledge our own sin because we are too focused on the miracle. In all of our wanting we can't hear God. Peter said, "I'm a sinner." In saying that, he was giving Jesus the glory. He knew that nothing he did caused the harvest of fish. We are looking for God to do something and when He does, we forget it was Him who did it. Will we give Him the glory? Will we discern our own sin?

Test #4 Will U Do the Main Thing?

Will we discern our mission? If we want to see our families grow we need to realize we are on a mission, that we have a role to play. Jesus gave Peter another mission. No longer would he be a fisherman but a fisher of men. As a born again believer our mission is not to gain money or acquisitions but to be an evangelist, to simply share with others what God has done in our lives. When Jesus comes into our lives and we see Him for who He is change and transformation take place. We discern our sin and receive a mission. Eph. 6:13 ...having done all, stand. Can we say that we've done all? Can we even say we've done something? As a believer in Jesus Christ will you do something? He did something for you, now it's your turn to do something.