

Good morning. This is Reef.

Now, what happened that while the crowd was pressing away, that's a red, which is also the Sea of Galilee. And he saw two boats at the edge of the boat. But the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. And he got into one of the boats, which was Simone, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And he sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Shimon, Put out into the deep water, let down your netswear, catch. Shimon answered and said, Master, we have worked hard all night and caught nothing. But I will do as you say and let down the nets. When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish and their nets began to break. So they signal to their partners and the other vote for them to come and help them. And they came and helped them and filled both of us. So they began to sink. But when Shamom Peter.

Saw that.

He fell down at his shoe.

Go away from me.

Lord, for I am a sinful man. For Mason had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish, because they had table. And also there were James and John sons and Zebra who were partners with Shannon. And Yeshua said to not fear. From now on, you will be catching me when they get brought their boats to land. Everything all right? Thank you so much.

Joe, did you hear something different when Mr. Nichols was reading just now? What did you hear that was different? He said what? He said he was a sinful man. And he also was using a name for Jesus that we don't usually hear. Did anybody hear that name? No. That was a good try, though. You said Yeshua. Have you ever heard that before? Yeshua. But when Jesus swapped the face of this Earth, that was his name? Yeshua. But then if it got translated in other languages, we hear it as Jesus now. So we call him Jesus. But in his day, he would have heard yestua, just like my name Patrick in Spanish is Patricio. Yeah. So our names kind of go get little differences in different languages and everything. So I'm going to talk to the adults in a few minutes about that passage that he just read. And it's about fishing in some ways. Any of you guys ever fish? Yeah. You didn't catch anything like Peter? Like Simon Peter. He didn't catch anything. What about you, Tim? Have you ever caught anything? It was a catfish. Did you eat it? I love eating catfish. That's good.

Yeah. So they've got crab and flounder in those nets. That's wonderful. There's all kinds of different ways to do this. Rennick, were you going to say something? Oh, no, I'm just stretching. All right. Well, I've fished before, but not much at all. And one day I was on a retreat and I was at this house that had some fishing poles, and I thought I'll take a break and I'll try it and I cast out the lure that had the little bait on it. And all of a sudden I'm like, what? I pull it on and I can't believe it. I'm like, what is going on? I'm sure that I've just snagged a log or something. And all of a sudden this fish pops out and it's like electricity. I'm like, well, guess what? Whenever we fish like Simon Peter and his companions and we catch something, it is exciting, isn't it? It's really satisfying. You know what Jesus says? He says that the Church is supposed to be like that. You all, if you follow him, can catch people, you can catch them with the good news of God, that he loves them and he wants a relationship with them.

And I'm sure that you're learning some of those kind of things with misleading. Right? Yeah. Okay. Well, so you're going to go to kids live right now? Yeah. Bring your coats because you're going outside and then inside. But, Lord, we pray for the kids. Bless them as you make them fishers of people. In Jesus name, Amen. All right. Thank you, guys. All right. Let me pray for us. Well, Father, you show us what this means.

What it means to be fishers of men.

Pictures of women, fishers of people. We ask, Lord, that you would speak through your word, that you speak through my lips, that you would use a sinner, Lord, that you have chosen, and that you would

speak to sinners whom you have chosen. And we would understand the very words you spoke to Peter. Don't be afraid. From now on, you will catch people. Amen. That day, Jesus looked at Simon Peter. Jesus believed in what he was going to do in Simon Peter. Have you ever had somebody believe in you? Have you ever experienced that? When I was I'm working right now on a family history, a timeline. I have a Church planting coach, and he wants me to do this timeline because he said when you look back at some of the big events in your life that have shaped you, it helps you understand sometimes what God wants to do with you now. And so as I was thinking about these events, a moment like that came to mind, a moment when somebody believed in me. And it was pretty powerful, but so powerful that I still think of it today. It happened in middle school.

I was on the middle school football team, and it's hard to believe I ever played football. Right. But I was on the middle school football team and I was running back. We had two running backs, me and a guy named Denny Williams. And he was really fast, so he got the ball the majority of time, which means he scored the majority of touchdowns. And we were playing against Fred Lane Middle School, and we were down by about five points. It was near the end of the game. We were on about 25 yard line. And coach Courtney calls a timeout, and he comes out and he says, all right, guys, listen, we have got to score here on this play. Times running out. We got to do it. So we're going to do a 32 dive, 32 dive. And I want you guys to give it everything you have. And then he turns to Denny and he goes, now, Danny, when you get the ball. And then he looks like, confused. And he's like. And he's like, the coach, is something wrong? And I said, coach, coach, 32 dive is my play. Denny's 33 dive. So the coach looks at me and he looks at Denny and he goes, all right, 33 dots, 33 dot.

And then he looks over at me again and he goes, Dominguez, can you do it? Yeah, coach, I can do it. And he goes, all right, then do it. And he patted me on the shoulder, and he goes, 32 died. I'm telling you, there was nothing that was going to keep me out of that incident. I left a trail of Brendlin Middle School football players who bounced off of me and everything. There was nothing going to stop me from getting in, literally, because he believed in me. I can still see his face today. He's so powerful when somebody believes in me. I'm sure you've had a moment like that, whether it's a teacher or a parent, coach or a spouse or a friend would be a good one to think. Do you know what Jesus believes in you? We come to Church and we believe that a lot rides on what we believe, that we got to believe in God, but God believes in you. I know this to be true. Think about it. Jesus comes down to save lost people, for which he literally has to give his life upon a cross. And then he leaves.

He says, I'm leaving. I'm giving you my spirit, and you all are going to reach the lost. You all are going to become the fishers of people. Jesus believes in you. But we got a lot of objections, don't we? Just like Peter, he objected that day. We have a lot of objections. We think. I don't know if God can use me. I'm too introverted. I Bumble things that I say. I say the wrong things. I'm not quick with it. Or maybe I'm just too busy. I really am busy. I don't know how I would ever fit into my life the ability to share Christ with people. Besides, I feel under equipped. Any of you feel under equipped for the task of bringing other people to Christ? Or I really am a sin. I'm just too sinful. God couldn't use me. That's Peter's exact objection right an objection that Jesus simply will not accept, not then, not now, ever. So I want to look at this account and really see how the Lord may get us to what I would call a Coach Courtney moment, a moment where we actually hear him speaking to us, and we actually believe what he says, that he believes in us.

So if you want to look in the past, it was read it's, Luke, chapter five. In the first three verses, it says, One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of penetrat, or as we know it, the Sea of Galilee, 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 posts, the one along and talk people. So this is the way that Jesus operates. He could have just stood there on the shore and preached. Right now, we do know that Lakes afford a certain amount of acoustical boosting, right? Have you ever been across a Lake and somebody speaks across the still waters from 100 yards away, and you can actually hear them pretty well. So that's what Jesus was doing. But he's Jesus, right? He could be whispered. And if God wanted everybody to hear, they would hear. But instead, he chooses to use nature. He chooses to use people and the resources that the people have. In this case, Peters, both. Now, we might think that he's kind of being forward and everything, but this is not the first time that Peters encountered Jesus.

If you look in chapter four, you'll see that after Jesus was rejected at Nazareth, it says he went to Capernaum and there he cast out a demon. And then he preached in the synagogue. And then he went to Simon Peter's home, where he healed Simon Peter's mother in law. And then after that, the word gets out and he starts healing all kinds of people that are brought to him into the evening. And then the next day, Jesus gets up, has his quiet time. People come looking for him, and he says, I'm leaving. I'm heading out to the other synagogues around this region so that people can hear the good news. And that's what he did. But then at some point, I guess, he comes back and he's preaching by the side of the Lake. And there's Simon, who will later be named Peter Gauntlet, washing his nets, having been out all night, not having caught a thing, just like Addie was saying, I fished, but I didn't catch anything. But when you're a fisherman, that's pretty frustrating. It's probably a lot like it is for us at Church, right? Typical week we experience frustrations. Some of you might be here today having experienced a lot of frustration in work or relationship or who knows what, and you come to Church and maybe you're a lot like Peter Peter's there.

He's washing his nets, maybe feeling well, certainly feeling the frustrations, right? But maybe also feeling a little bit proud that Jesus has chosen to use his boat. Certainly probably feeling a little bit of a break from the frustration, like hearing the words of Jesus as he's proclaiming the good news. Probably speaking about what a good father God is, what the Kingdom of heaven is. Like all of those things, Peter's taking that stuff in. It's a break for him. And sometimes that's the way Church is for us. It's a break. I can be somewhere where I can just worship God, where I can hear the words of God, where I can let down my guard a little, hopefully, right? I can let down my guard a little where I could forget the frustrations and pray for a better week. And then Church is over. Jesus is preaching and then Church is over. And probably a lot of people go home. But he turns to Simon Peter and he says to him, verse four, put out into the deep water and let down the nets for a catch. He's telling Simon Peter, we're not done yet. We're not done yet.

The things I've been preaching about God's abundance and his provision and whatever else Jesus is preaching about, we're going to put it into practice right now. Peter. Peter doesn't know that. And Jesus doesn't actually say that, but that's his intent. Let's go out into the deep waters. Let me show you what God is like in the deep waters. Let me go with you into your vocation, into your world, into your work, into your family, whatever it might be. If you're really doing Church, then take me with you when you're done. Don't let it just be a moment of rest in an otherwise frustrating or fulfilling or whatever. Take me with you and let me show you how this works in life. So they go out into the deep water. Of course, Peter is objecting again, just like us, right? I don't know if I want you, Lord, to mess with the stuff that I know the most about, right? I'm a fisherman crying out loud. I've been out all night. I caught a thing. Don't we have those kind of objections? When I was in College and I just become a Christian, I don't know, probably been about six months or so, there was this campus staff worker, interval worker named Robin Malone.

And he invited me to lunch one day, and we're having lunch, and he looks at me and he says, you need to be a missionary. I'm studying to be an actor. I don't see how the two merge and everything. I'm putting a lot into this to become an actor. And I think God wants you to be a Michigan. I'm like, who's this guy think he is? Like, telling me that. And so after the lunch is over, I'm with my friend Greg Kellogg, who had led me to the Lord. And I'm saying, Rob Malone was saying, I need to be a missionary. It really kind of made me mad when he said that. And he said, well, have you prayed about it? Why don't you just pray? All right? And I think in many ways I've been on mission ever since, been over eight countries sharing the gospel, learning about youth Ministry. We became the youth Minister as a missionary. We established the youth Ministry at the Church that we were going to. I wasn't paid by them. And then they started paying me a little bit and I raised money and support. So it was like a missionary.

And God established a youth Ministry there that's still going today. And then I became a pastor, and that seemed like a little bit less missionary than being a youth Minister and now planting a Church. So here we are again, all because Greg Collins said, you meant to pray about just pray about it. And that's kind of what happens with Peter. But because you say so, Lord, I know my business. I know all this stuff. You know, my mother in law, he killed all these people. He's preached the word of God. The

least I can do is take them out into the middle of the Lake. But because you say so, Lord, and that's a model for Christians to cycle. So whatever you say, Lord, because you say so, they go out. And of course, you know what happens. They catch so much fish. They catch so much fish. Peter can't believe it. The boat begins to sing in verse eight. It says, when Simon Peter saw this, he felt it Jesus needs and said, Go away from me, Lord. I'm a sinful man. He's overwhelmed with Jesus greatness and his unworthiness. Have you ever been there?

I think that it'd be hard to say that you really have a relationship with God until you've come to a place of seeing your own sins, seeing how sinful you are. Sometimes that comes, like right at the beginning of our relationship. Other times it comes later, but it always comes when it comes. It's a good thing. Then we get the coach quarterly moment, right? I'm a sinner.

And the Lord looks at us and he says, don't be afraid.

I've got a purpose for you. Don't be afraid. From now on, you will catch people. Then Jesus said this, and they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him and left everything and followed him. What he said to Peter became a universal truth for all of them. And what became a universal truth for all of them becomes universal truth for all the Church. Leave everything and follow them. Be willing to go through discomfort and follow me. And here's what I totally believe, that the Lord wants to take this Church and each person in this Church and make us a capernity, a fishing village, right? That every single one of us can fish. And that's what the Church needs to be desperately. In this day and ages, very few churches are actually reaching people for Christ. And yet the Lord is confident in his Church that you can and should and will lead people to Christ and be fishers of people. I've joined an evangelism cohort. It's other pastors and they say it can only be senior pastors. And their reasoning is this, that if the senior pastor doesn't believe that his Church can be a fishing Church, a Church that reaches people, it's not going to happen.

He'll be working across purposes with whoever's passionate about management in the Church. But if the pastor believes it, the people can be equipped and they can't fish. They can learn to fish. Just like Addie, I cast out my line, I didn't catch anything. But she can still fish. She can still be taught how to do it in the same way we can be taught, we can learn. There are three components, three absolutely necessary things for a Church to become a confirmator to become a fishing village. Number one, they've got to believe that the Bible is the word of God.

They have to honor it and obey it.

That's true. Most evangelical churches, most churches say we honor the Bible. We believe the Bible. We seek to obey the Bible in every way. I believe that that's true of all. You know, I see it in your lives and whatever degree is true of you, it's something we're going to keep pressing forward in. But number two, a Church that becomes a fishing village is a Church that loves people and longs for them to know Jesus. Again, I've heard some of you all talking about relatives or people in your lives that you want to come and know Jesus Christ. And I know that you're a loving people and I see how you love one another and I know that you love the people in your lives. Again, this is probably true of most churches. This one guy who really studied all of this stuff gave me these three points and he said, it's the third one that is often missing in churches. It's the third one they are willing to sacrifice to the point of joyfully embracing change. What did Jesus say to Peter? Follow me. And that's what they did. They followed him, they left everything and they followed, they sacrificed and joyfully embraced change.

That's got to be true in our lives as well. Who knows what it is? Maybe it's a person who says, okay, I like this kind of music, but that kind of music is going to be more relevant to this culture around us and reach them better. And so I'm willing to embrace that change. Or somebody says, I like Anglican freaks to wear robes, but in this culture, the door is going to be wider open if they don't. So I embrace that change. I think the fact that you guys are part of a Church plan States that there's a willingness there to embrace change and to sacrifice when it comes to reaching others personal lives. There's other things that also might need to change the discomfort of reaching out or whatever it might be. So here's what I believe. That every single one of us could probably rate ourselves, probably say on a

scale of one to 1010, being I'm like a superficial, right? I tell people about Jesus. I pray for people. I invite them into my home. I've had experience of leading people to Jesus. It's not an uncommon thing that's a ten. You got somebody like that in your congregation, you want to say, Go, keep doing it right?

Then there are ones one is like, I like Church and I like worshiping God. But really, I never think about bringing other people to Christ. I don't really pray for other people to come to Christ. That's between you and the Lord. Where do you think you are? What's your personal evangelistic temperature or your Fischer rating or however you want to put it? And here's how I believe the Lord helps a Church become a fishing village. When each and every person in the Church says, what can I do to go from a one to a two, or from a four to a five or nine to a ten, whatever it is, and you pray about it. Whatever you say could be that you begin to pray for lost people, maybe three or four. You just write their names down and you start praying. It could be that you've been praying for songs, but now you need to sit down and have coffee with them. You need to invite them into your life and become more a part of their life. Develop a friendship with them, earn the right to just share the gospel. Or maybe you've got some of those kind of relationships.

And now it's just time to, you know what? This time when I have coffee with them, I'm just going to tell them about Jesus. I'm going to ask them, Would you mind if I share you about my faith? Because I think the Lord loves. I know the Lord loves you. And I just want to tell you how this all works. It's real important to me. And we're friends, right? I don't know what it is. Invite somebody into your home. But if each and every one of us today will say, Lord, what would you have me do? Just to amp it up a little bit? And we'll ask that question over the months and years. We'll keep each other accountable, and God will make this sick. Don't be afraid. I will make you fishers of people. That's our prayer for this Church. The Lord believes in us. And if we believe and follow, he'll do it. So we pray. Jesus, it cost you everything to win lost people like us. We pray that you'd show us what you wanted to cost us. We pray that you would make us into the fissures of people that you intend for us to be.

I ask, Lord, that you speak to each and every one here about one way that they could step more into this call of yours to be efficient with people. I asked, Lord, that we as a Church would have the deep honor of seeing people come to know Christ. We pray, Lord, that you would bring more laborers for the harvest, more fishers for the boats, and we offer ourselves for those purposes, Lord in Jesus name Amen.