

SESSION FIVE: Is it worth trying again? *Luke 5 v 1-11*

Full Route

1. Jesus asks Simon to push the boat out from the shore, so the people can see him as he teaches them (v 3).
Jesus has crowds around him who realize that what he says is “the word of God” (v 1); Simon must have realised that this man was in some way special.
2. To put down his fishing nets to catch a load of fish.
3. They’ve been trying to catch fish all night and have caught absolutely nothing! But Simon has another go, because Jesus has told him to.
5. He catches so many fish that there are too many to fit easily into two whole boats. (Which is particularly amazing when you remember they’d caught nothing in hours!)
6. Simon tells Jesus to leave him, because he (Simon) knows he is a “sinful man”. Simon realises that this miraculous catch of fish means that in some way God has come to them (though he doesn’t yet understand exactly who Jesus is). And he knows that he isn’t perfect (he’s sinful), so it’s dangerous for him to be in the presence of the perfect God. He doesn’t deserve to be in God’s presence; and he is terrified he won’t be able to survive in God’s presence.
7. Jesus reassures Simon that he doesn’t need to be afraid! Jesus hasn’t come to judge Simon, but to make friends with him. And he tells him that from now on he’ll catch men instead of fish; Jesus is going to use Simon to bring men into the presence of God.
8. They leave everything to follow Jesus. They even leave their careers behind. It can only be that they realise that following Jesus is far more important (and exciting!) than anything else in life; and so following Jesus is worth giving up anything else to do.

NOTE: Jesus later gave Simon a new name. He called him “Peter” (see 6 v 12-14).