

LISTENER GUIDE

Have You Abandoned Your Boat?

by Priscilla Shirer (True Woman '12)

Text: Luke 5

In Luke 5, we find a discouraged, frustrated, disappointed fisherman who is about to meet with Jesus Christ.

- Simon had abandoned his boat after an all-night fishing expedition.
- The boat represents _____, _____, and _____.

1. In all the chaos of the crowd clamoring for His attention, Jesus saw one fisherman who had had a bad night fishing (vv. 1–2).

- No matter how much chaos is going on all around you, God sees _____, cares about _____, and knows the _____ of _____.
- We serve a God who is high, glorious, mighty, and worthy to be praised, yet He still chooses to come and meet each of us at the point of our need.

2. Simon had gotten out of the boat and was washing his nets. He was done fishing (v. 2).

- There is nothing wrong with _____ your nets as long as you intend on _____ them again.
- There are too many of us living isolated Christian lives, and we're trying to tend our nets all by ourselves. The Christian life was meant to be lived in _____ and _____.

3. Jesus used Simon's boat as a platform to teach the people (v. 3).

- The part of your life that you think is _____ is probably what Jesus is going to make _____ for His glory and kingdom.
- Sometimes in His sovereignty, Jesus will allow the platform of your life to be empty of what you want to fill it with because He needs a place to stand. If we fill it with all of _____, there won't be room for _____.

4. Jesus asked Simon to go out into the deep waters to fish again (v. 4).

- Sometimes God's Word to us does not make sense with our own _____.
- We ought to go as deep as He calls us to into the reckless, risky place of faith. If He is with you in that place, you are better off than being by yourself in a place where you can stand on your own two feet with your own talent, experience, and gifting.
- The shallow water was to teach _____ . The deep water was to teach _____. When He is calling you into the deep places, it is a setup for you to experience Him.

5. Jesus has Simon cast out his net (v. 6).

- The Lord wants us to actually _____ with Him in the experience of His promises manifested and experienced in our life.

6. When they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking, Simon signaled to others to come and help (v. 6).

- When is the last time something happened in your life that literally left you speechless? That kind of miracle only happens in the _____ of _____.

Some of you have abandoned your boat. You've been so discouraged and disappointed, and you sense the Holy Spirit is calling you to get back in there with those emotional nets you've already got tended and cleaned up.

You weren't intending on casting them back out there again, but you sense God calling you to invest again. I want to suggest that if He is calling you to the deep, it is because it is a divine setup for Him to demonstrate His glory and His power and His presence to you in your life.

LISTENER GUIDE ANSWER KEY

Have You Abandoned Your Boat?

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Text: Luke 5

In Luke 5, we find a discouraged, frustrated, disappointed fisherman who is about to meet with Jesus Christ.

- Simon had abandoned his boat after an all-night fishing expedition.
- The boat represents disappointment, discouragement, and frustration.

1. In all the chaos of the crowd clamoring for His attention, Jesus saw one fisherman who had had a bad night fishing (vv. 1–2).

- No matter how much chaos is going on all around you, God sees you, cares about you, and knows the details of your life.
- We serve a God who is high, glorious, mighty, and worthy to be praised, yet He still chooses to come and meet each of us at the point of our need.

2. Simon had gotten out of the boat and was washing his nets. He was done fishing (v. 2).

- There is nothing wrong with washing your nets as long as you intend on using them again.
- There are too many of us living isolated Christian lives, and we're trying to tend our nets all by ourselves. The Christian life was meant to be lived in community and accountability.

3. Jesus used Simon's boat as a platform to teach the people (v. 3).

- The part of your life that you think is useless is probably what Jesus is going to make useful for His glory and kingdom.
- Sometimes in His sovereignty, Jesus will allow the platform of your life to be empty of what you want to fill it with because He needs a place to stand. If we fill it with all of our stuff, there won't be room for His stuff.

4. Jesus asked Simon to go out into the deep waters to fish again (v. 4).

- Sometimes God's Word to us does not make sense with our own experience.
- We ought to go as deep as He calls us to into the reckless, risky place of faith. If He is with you in that place, you are better off than being by yourself in a place where you can stand on your own two feet with your own talent, experience, and gifting.
- The shallow water was to teach the people. The deep water was to teach Simon. When He is calling you into the deep places, it is a setup for you to experience Him.

5. Jesus has Simon cast out his net (v. 6).

- The Lord wants us to actually participate with Him in the experience of His promises manifested and experienced in our life.

6. When they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking, Simon signaled to others to come and help (v. 6).

- When is the last time something happened in your life that literally left you speechless? That kind of miracle only happens in the risky place of faith.

Some of you have abandoned your boat. You've been so discouraged and disappointed, and you sense the Holy Spirit is calling you to get back in there with those emotional nets you've already got tended and cleaned up.

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