

How to Reach Our Full Potential
Series: Luke
October 8, 2017 **Pastor Bill Bump**

We get insight into how to reach our full potential by studying what Jesus says in Luke 5 as He calls the first disciples to follow Him.

How we can experience our full potential:

1. Evaluate our self-confidence.

Luke 5:1-7 ¹ One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ² He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³ Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

⁵ "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." ⁶ And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷ A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

After Jesus ended His teaching to the crowd, He started a personal conversation with Peter that would change Peter's life.

Peter's response reflected some impatience with Jesus because Peter saw himself as a fishing expert.

An important lesson in our own spiritual movement is to learn that God wants us to respond with a heart of obedience to His teaching and leading.

If Peter had not obeyed what Jesus told him to do, there would have been no catch of fish.

To experience our full potential, we must place our confidence in following Jesus and not in our own expertise.

2. Evaluate our Jesus-confidence.

Luke 5:8-11 ⁸ When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." ⁹ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. ¹⁰ His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" ¹¹ And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Jesus responded to Peter's self-confidence by leading him into a situation where Peter had to place his confidence in Jesus.

Jesus showed that He is Lord of everything, including the things that Peter knew best.

Peter saw himself as a sinful man who had no right to be in the presence of a holy God.

This is a common experience in the Bible:

Genesis 18:27 Then Abraham spoke again. "Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes."

Isaiah 6:5 Then I said, "It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man. I have filthy lips, and I live among a people with filthy lips. Yet I have seen the King, the Lord of Heaven's Armies."

Revelation 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last."

When standing in the presence of the living Jesus, we see our own potential as woefully inadequate in light of the potential He wants us to have in Him.

In every instance in the Bible when God overwhelms with His majesty, wonder, and glory to the point that they are fearful, He responds with the phrase, "Do no fear."

Conclusion

From what Luke recorded in chapter 5, we learn that Jesus wants us to evaluate our self-confidence and security—to see how shallow it is—and choose to become Jesus-confident and allow Him to use us as fishers of men.

First, we are to respond to the revelation of who Jesus is.

Secondly, we need to understand that the process of knowing Jesus and His power is progressive.

Finally, we have to prayerfully consider what it means to leave everything to follow Jesus.

I believe the main point of Luke 5 is that, by Jesus' power and authority, multitudes of people will become part of God's Kingdom because the followers of Jesus will proclaim the Word of God, obey the commands of Jesus, humble themselves, and above all else, treasure Jesus.