

Devotion 2- Jesus, the Fisher of Men

How many of you have gone fishing?

It is an exhilarating experience. You sit and anticipate that moment when the fish will pull on your pole. When it finally happens, your heart pounds as you stand up and reel the fish in. As you reel the fish in, the tension gets heavier as the fish fights against the pressure. When you are finally victorious and see your accomplishment, a great joy comes over you.

Luke 5: 4-8 reads, “When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered and said, “Master, we 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 signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus’ feet, saying, “Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!”

Simon Peter knew that Jesus was a great Rabbi. Jesus taught the scriptures with confidence and lead his disciples well, but Simon Peter did not recognize Jesus as Lord over all creation. In this story, Simon Peter calls Jesus “Master,” a common term for someone above you, but not a term for Lord of the universe. He is hesitant to trust in Jesus as ruler over all things. Jesus commands him to cast his nets over the side of the boat. Peter reluctantly submits to Jesus’ commands. In a moment of shock, the nets were full of so many fish, that the nets began to break, and the boats were so heavy that they began to sink.

Simon Peter had a moment of clarity. Jesus Christ is no mere man. Creation submits to Jesus. Jesus was there in the beginning when all things were created. He is God. Simon Peter was stunned when he realized who he was standing next to. His only reaction was to get on his knees and cry out in repentance. For the first time, he calls Jesus, “Lord,” recognizing that Jesus is God.

Jesus used a fishing lesson to mold Simon Peter. Simon Peter’s heart would have pounded when he caught all those fish; but it did not pound in excitement of catching fish, it pounded because he realized that he was standing next to the God of the Universe. He needed to submit.

Questions

1. What is the difference between the term’s “master” and “Lord”?
2. How does Jesus show Peter that he is “Lord”?
3. What does it look like to submit to Jesus as “Lord” and not just “master”?