

Picked **Gifted**
Chosen **Drafted**
Elected **Invited**

Luke 5:1-3

As the crowd was pressing in on Jesus to hear God's word, He was standing by Lake Gennesaret. He saw two boats at the edge of the lake; the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, which belonged to **Simon**, and asked him to put out a little from the land. Then He sat down and was teaching the crowds from the boat.

Luke 5:4-5a

When He had finished speaking, He said to **Simon**, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." "Master," Simon replied, "we've worked hard all night long and caught **nothing**."

God's invitations will often appear as interruptions and/or contradictions.

Luke 5:5b-7

But if You say so, I'll let down the nets." When they did this, they caught a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them; they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

God can "do it" without us but He usually opts to work through us.

The one condition of our participation: availability

Four Questions:

****Am I available ...?**

1) Am I available **NOW**?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"We must be ready to be interrupted by God. For God will be constantly crossing our paths and cancelling our plans."

Identify your excuse(s).

Luke 5:8-10a

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus's knees and said, "Go away from me, because **I'm a sinful man**, Lord!" For he and all those with him were amazed at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's partners.

Where do we put the QUESTION MARK?

Timing
Understanding ? Availability
Sinfulness

Luke 5:10b

"Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. **"From now on** you will be catching people."

2) Am I available **FOR THIS?**

Think **path** more than plan.

Luke 5:11

Then they brought the boats to land, **left everything**, and **followed** Him.

3) Am I available **EVEN IF?**

Timing
Understanding ? Availability
Sinfulness
Sacrifice/Cost

The people God uses the most are the ones who hold on to the **least**.

4) Am I available **FOR CHRIST?**

How to Almost Follow Christ:

Wait for "perfect"

Stop at "hard"

Grip the "gifts"