

GBUMC COMPASS

A Weekly Worship Guide

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Sunday, January 22, 2023



"Friends in Christ exercising love, hope and grace to enrich all lives."

Sermon: *"The Audacity to Leave the Docks"*

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 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, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:1-11 (NRSV)

Thoughts to Consider for the Sermon

1. The kind of commercial fishing the disciples-to-be were doing couldn't be done from the shore. That's why Jesus tells them to put the boat out further, promising a great catch! In the church, effective ministry can't be done if we're not willing to leave the docks where it feels safe and familiar. What is the next step you need to take to leave "the docks," and begin fishing for people? Do you need to try inviting someone to church? Do you need to tell your faith story to someone? Do you need to find an opportunity to serve?

An Invitation

If you are worshiping with us today, and you don't have a church home, but are looking for a faith community full of people who are also journeying as disciples of Jesus, following Christ's example, love and grace, then we would love the opportunity to be that church home and family for you. If this sounds good to you, we simply want to encourage you to keep coming, talk to those around you, and discover what it means to be part of this beautiful church family and family of Christ.

Membership in the church is not about a status. Instead, it's about taking a step as a follower of Jesus to commit yourself, along with others, to that journey! If you are interested in joining the church as a member, or even just learning more about it, please indicate that on your Connect Card, and we'll be sure to reach out quickly!

Meeting you is a blessing for us, and we hope that this day was a blessing for you!

-Pastor Brian