



## The Last Thing

Date: March 17, 2024

Text: Acts 1:8; Luke 5:10; John 21:15-19

### Big Idea:

The last thing Jesus says to His disciples mirrors the first thing He spoke to them. Remember in our first message we saw Jesus calling Simon Peter and the other disciples and Jesus gives them their mission right out of the gate. “From now on you will ‘fish for people.’” The last thing He speaks, “you will be my witnesses, in my power, through the Holy Spirit” echoes that same calling.

Our mission as followers of Jesus is crystal clear. Disciples seek to make more disciples. Fully devoted followers of Jesus seek to make more fully devoted followers of Jesus. Disciples “follow Jesus” wherever He leads. For Peter, it would be to his own cross where he hung upside down. When Jesus issues His call to come to Him it is also a call to *follow* Him wherever He leads. Will you follow Him? Will you invite others to follow Him?

### Opening Questions:

### Notes on the Passage:

**(Luke 5:10)** In this passage, Jesus steps into the boat of Simon Peter and begins to rewrite this fisherman’s story. Upon seeing the miraculous work of Jesus, Simon falls to his knees as he realizes his sinfulness in the presence of the perfect Savior. Yet, Jesus does not condemn him, rather, He gives him a new identity. “You will no longer catch fish. I will make you a fisher of men.” Jesus was calling Simon to the very work Jesus would give His life doing- rescuing lost souls out of the waves.

1. How does it make you feel that Jesus did not condemn Simon the way he condemned himself, but instead called him?
2. Simon left his boat and livelihood to follow Jesus- what might you be called to leave behind?

**(Acts 1:8)** Acts covers the birth of the church and occurs right after the ascension of Christ. Can you imagine the confusion that must have set in as Jesus leaves- what are we supposed to do now? But Jesus leaves them with a promise, “You will receive power and shall be witnesses to Me.” As believers today, we understand that when we accept Christ the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us. The early believers had never experienced this since Christ had walked with them. But, when the Holy Spirit came they began to understand what Jesus had meant when He commanded them to be witnesses. A natural part of receiving the Holy Spirit is desiring to share that with the world. If you walk in the Spirit, you will be a witness and you cannot be a witness apart from the power of the Spirit.

1. Why do you think the indwelling of the Spirit brings “power?”
2. How does this “power” manifest in our lives? In your life personally?

**(John 21:15-19)** This passage occurs after the resurrection of Christ. Here, Jesus asks Peter three times “do you love me?” With each of these promptings, Jesus was washing away each of the



# the discipleship journey

FROM INVITATION TO IMPACT

denials Peter had spoken before the crucifixion. Jesus is once again meeting Peter in his brokenness and calling him to something greater- “Feed my sheep.” Then, Jesus tells Peter that he would die a martyr’s death, a death that would glorify God, and in the face of that future, gives Peter one last calling- “Follow Me.” When there’s brokenness, follow Me. When there’s pain, follow Me. When there’s death, follow Me. Will you accept the call?

1. Peter denied Jesus because he feared the cross and was then given the opportunity to follow Jesus in the face of his own cross. How might this have healed Peter’s faith?
2. Will you follow Jesus in the face of these things? Have you before?

## **Going Deeper:**

1. Before the Holy Spirit, God still communicated with His people. How did He do this?
2. What is the difference between earthly “power” and Spiritual power?
3. Why do you think Jesus told Peter how he would die?
4. What does it mean to be a “fisher of men?”
5. What was the significance of the word “love” in the conversation between Jesus and Peter in John 21? (look up original meanings of phileo love and agape love)

## **Additional Resources:**

[You Shall Receive Power...For Mission | Desiring God](#)- Devotion/Message

[Breaking Nets, Sinking Boats and Saving Men | Desiring God](#)- Devotion

[Bing Videos](#)- Sermon

## **Group Activity:**

As a group, brainstorm ways the Holy Spirit brings “power.” Talk about the differences between earthly power and Spiritual power. Then, edify each other by pointing out members of your groups who exemplify these gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Some examples of the Holy Spirit’s power:

Evangelism

Prayer

Peace

Courage

Endurance

Wisdom

Patience

Love