Sermon 09 FEB 2025 St Pauls Luke 5 1-11

**Jesus Caught You!**

**Text:** Luke 5:1-11  
**Supporting Texts:** Isaiah 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20; Psalm 138  
**Theme:** Jesus has caught us—not to condemn us, but to redeem us and call us into His service.

**Introduction: When You're Confronted with Truth**

Have you ever been caught?

I don’t mean just caught doing something wrong—though that can be an uncomfortable experience. I mean caught off guard, caught in a moment of truth, caught in a situation where you can no longer hide from reality.

It’s not a good feeling, is it? When we are confronted with truth—especially about ourselves—our first instinct is often to escape, to excuse, or to run away.

Think about what happens when a doctor tells someone they need to change their eating habits, stop smoking, or exercise more. How do most people react? They don’t want to hear it. They might avoid check-ups, pretend everything’s fine, or tell themselves, “I feel okay, so I must be okay.” They push away the truth because it makes them uncomfortable.

Or consider what happens when a friend points out a flaw in our character. Instead of taking it to heart, we get defensive. "Who are you to tell me that?" we think.

And, what about when a pastor preaches the truth about our sin? How often do people get upset, leave the church, and go somewhere else where the message is "softer"—where they don’t have to be confronted?

It’s human nature. But the question before us today is this: **What do we do when Jesus Himself catches us?**

That’s exactly what happens in our Gospel reading today. Jesus catches Peter—not just with fish, but in his own unworthiness. And in doing so, Jesus catches Peter for something greater. He doesn’t just reveal Peter’s sinfulness; He calls Peter into a new life. Today, Jesus does the same for you. He catches you—not to condemn you, but to redeem you and transform you for His service.

**I. Jesus Caught You in Your Unworthiness.** Peter was exhausted. He had been fishing all night and had caught absolutely nothing. Any experienced fisherman will tell you that a night like that is frustrating, disappointing, and humbling.

And then along comes Jesus, a carpenter, telling Peter how to do his job. "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch," He says. Can you imagine what Peter must have been thinking? "I’ve been at this all night. I’m the fisherman. You’re the teacher. What do you know about fishing?"

But something about Jesus compels Peter to obey. So he casts the net again. And suddenly, everything changes. The nets are overflowing. There are so many fish that the boats begin to sink.

This is the moment when Peter realizes exactly who Jesus is.

And his reaction? It’s not excitement. It’s not joy. It’s not even amazement at the miracle. It’s fear. Peter falls at Jesus’ feet and says, **"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."**

Why such a strong reaction? Because in that moment, Peter has been caught. He has been confronted with the truth of who Jesus is, and at the same time, he sees himself clearly for the first time.

This is the same reaction we see in Isaiah when he stands before the throne of God. Isaiah sees the Lord, high and lifted up, and the angels are crying out, **"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!"** And Isaiah is undone. **"Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips!"**

Isaiah and Peter both experience the same thing: when sinners encounter the holiness of God, they are immediately struck with the reality of their own sinfulness.

And yet, how often do we react differently? When the truth of God’s Word confronts us, do we humbly acknowledge our sin, or do we try to escape it? When a pastor preaches the truth and calls out sin, do we listen, or do we get defensive?

Many times, people don’t want to hear hard truths, so they run away. They avoid the Word, avoid church, and look for the “easier” path. They follow their own reasoning, even though it leads them away from Christ.

But that’s like asking a **plumber** to fix your **car’s engine**—it doesn’t make sense! Yet, how often do we seek solutions in all the wrong places instead of trusting in Christ?

When Jesus catches us in our sin, there is only one right response: repentance.

**II. Jesus Caught You with His Grace**

When Peter falls at Jesus’ feet and confesses his sinfulness, how does Jesus respond?

He doesn’t push Peter away. He doesn’t rebuke him. Instead, He speaks words of **grace**: **"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."**

Jesus does not reject sinners. He redeems them.

We see this same grace in Isaiah’s vision. After Isaiah confesses his sin, a seraphim takes a burning coal from the altar and touches his lips, saying, **"Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."**

And later in Peter’s life, after he denies Jesus three times, Jesus meets him again **by a charcoal fire** on the shore. And three times, Jesus asks Peter, **"Do you love me?"** And three times, Peter affirms his love. Jesus restores him completely and gives him a new mission: **"Feed my sheep."**

This is what happens when Jesus catches us. He does not catch us to destroy us. He catches us to redeem us, to restore us, and to call us into His service.

**III. Jesus Caught You for a Purpose**

Peter, James, and John leave everything and follow Jesus. Their purpose in life is no longer about themselves—it’s about Christ’s mission.

And the same is true for us. Before Jesus caught us, we lived for ourselves—our success, our comfort, our desires. But when Jesus catches us, everything changes.

Paul reminds us in **1 Corinthians 14** that our gifts should be used to build up the church, not to serve ourselves. That’s what being a follower of Christ means.

So, what about us? Have we been more concerned with preserving our comforts than with spreading the Gospel? Have we been using our gifts to build up the church, or to serve our own preferences?

Jesus didn’t catch us to sit in the boat. He caught us to **be fishers of men.**

**Conclusion: Jesus Caught You—Now What?**

Jesus catches us in our sin, but He does not throw us away. He redeems us, restores us, and transforms us for His mission.

So now the question is: **Will we follow Him?**

What do we need to leave behind? What excuses have we been making? What fears have been holding us back?

Jesus has caught you. Now, He calls you to follow.

**Closing Prayer**

Lord Jesus, You have caught us—not to destroy us, but to redeem us. Like Peter and Isaiah, we confess that we are sinful and unworthy. Yet in Your mercy, You have purified us and called us to follow You. Strengthen us to leave behind whatever holds us back. Help us to build up Your church, share Your Gospel, and live for Your glory. In Your holy name, we pray. Amen.