



Have you ever been on a bus, coach, or train when it is announced 'All change for..(wherever you happened to be going)' Well Luke 5 is little the author in writing his narrative saying 'All change..' There is now a change in direction Jesus' ministry



Up to this point in Luke's Gospel (if you check out up to the end of chapter 4) Jesus has been preaching and teaching in the synagogues both locally and further afield from his family home. Now Jesus was going very obviously public – speaking to the crowds in open air. On top of which prior to this, Jesus had been on his own; certainly as regards any permanent disciples.

Those referred to by John at the Wedding at Cana were un-named, so presumably not the 12 that Jesus started to choose from this point.



Now Peter had a boat; his own fishing boat – this may to have been passed down from father to son along with the trade and work it supported.

For a peasant fisherman this would have been the most valuable thing he would ever possess.

Then this new itinerant Rabbi come preacher steps into it and asks Peter to push him a short way out.



Jesus then, in Rabbinic tradition, sat down to teach the crowds. The original phrase used and the context means Jesus would have been teaching from the Torah – the first 5 books of the Old Testament.

Simon would never have experienced or seen anything like before in his life. There is no record or indication as to how long Jesus taught or what he covered from the text He chose... nor is there an interjection from Simon about Jesus using his boat and for the length of time he was in it. There must have been something about Jesus that stooped Peter in his tracks.



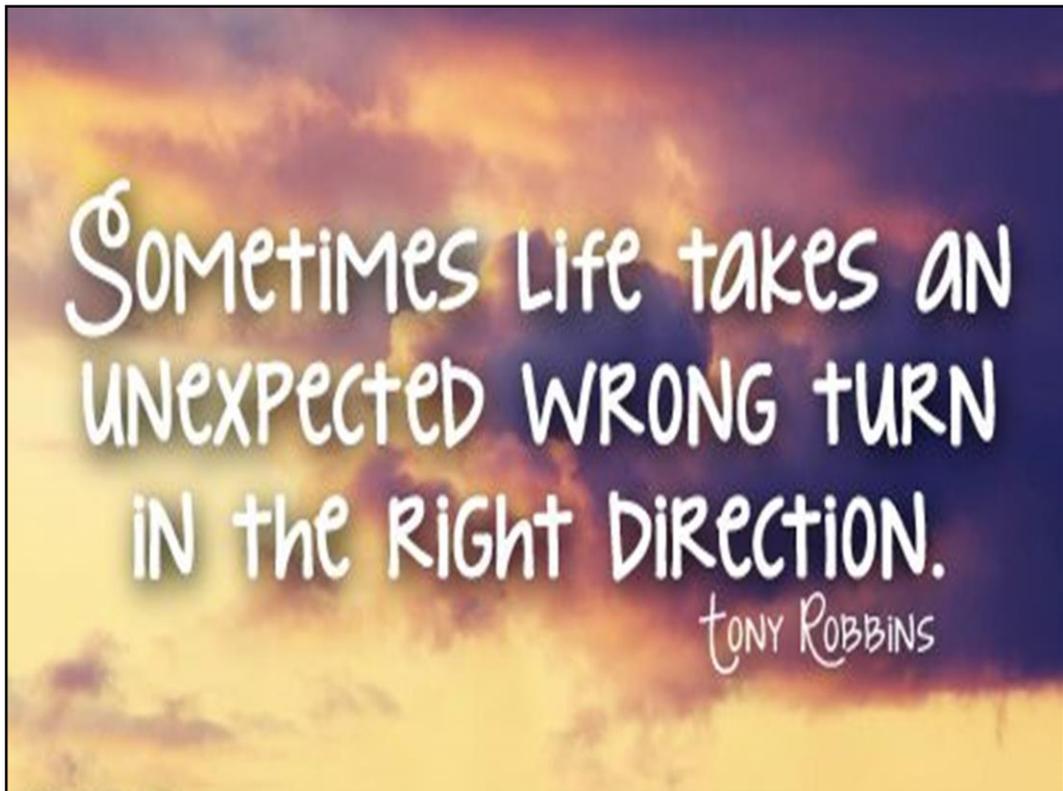
Life was starting to take an unexpected turn for Peter...he perhaps thought that he would simply be living out his days as a fisherman until his last day...yet Jesus had other plans.

Q. What do you do when life takes an unexpected turn?

When things are not turning out as you thought they would?

When the way up looks as perilous or more so uncertain as the way down.

How we respond is where Jesus and our faith in Him makes the difference...it's where the rubber hits the road.



Life may have taken you down a road so unlike what you'd planned...

Yet often in these unlooked for twists and turns do we, do you, see God's hand at work – even if it's only with hindsight?

Thus Peter was beginning a road that no doubt he looked back on with hindsight in the future years, when the Sea of Galilee was a long way behind him,



Peter must have thought that his day couldn't get worse or more weird.

No full nets on his fishing trip – in fact they had caught 2/3rds of nothing all night; this Rabbi turns up, borrows his boat and then this Carpenter cum Rabbi tells him how to fish! Peter uses the term 'Master' which is Luke's equivalent of 'Rabbi'.

But whether out of respect; out of something Peter saw in Jesus; he does as Jesus asks and sets sail or rows the boat out to where Jesus tells them to fish.



And of course, Jesus was right – they fished and their nets were full – so full that they needed other boats and fishermen to help haul in the catch... and even with other boats there were almost too much for them to get to shore.



The abundant catch would have meant that their fishing licences and taxes would have been paid; the fish that had to be given to the wealthy rulers would have been covered.

Then they would have had food in abundance for their families and fish to be sold to bring in extra income.

Jesus blessing with abundance didn't stop with the wine at the Wedding in Cana (that we looked at last week).

There is a phrase that goes 'you can't out give God' – and it carries a grain of truth – we cannot give with the level of Divine generosity that God can – we are not God, but we can enjoy His blessings.

**Just because  
the past didn't  
turn out like you  
wanted it to,  
doesn't mean your  
future can't be  
better than you  
ever imagined.**

This is maybe how Peter may have been thinking as his day unfolded, culminating as he thought with all the fish

But Jesus wasn't there just for fish – Jesus was there for the fishermen; Simon, James and John. What would their future be like with Jesus...would it be like what they have just seen? Better? Different? Dynamic?

Q. How do you think about your future? - as you have planned it or maybe as Jesus may have it planned? The great thing is when these are one and the same!

**BY LEAVING BEHIND YOUR  
OLD SELF AND TAKING A  
LEAP OF FAITH INTO THE  
UNKNOWN, YOU FIND OUT  
WHAT YOU ARE TRULY  
CAPABLE OF BECOMING.**

Peter was no doubt looking at his life up this point when he responds to Jesus' miracle by asking Jesus to leave him because of the life he's led.

This is not the usual response to a miracle, often it is 'I've got to tell somebody...' Peter may not have recognised Jesus as Divine at this first meeting – but Peter certainly knew Jesus was no ordinary man.

Jesus does not step away from Peter but rather invited Peter into discipleship; an invitation that would be life changing and life long from that moment onwards.

I could not imagine that the future I was walking toward could compare in any way to the past that I was leaving behind.

*Nelson Mandela*

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The late Nelson Mandela also had to make his walk to freedom from Robin Island out of captivity; out of his security where although imprisoned, Nelson Mandela knew what each day held – his prison cell had ironically also become his refuge.

As Peter hauled his boat up onto the shore and walked away from it; he was leaving his refuge; all he known; the good times, the lean times; the countless nights out on the water; storms and fishing in a Summer's breeze; Peter and the others 'they left everything'. Complete surrender of their former lives to an unknown future; with the Messiah who knew them by

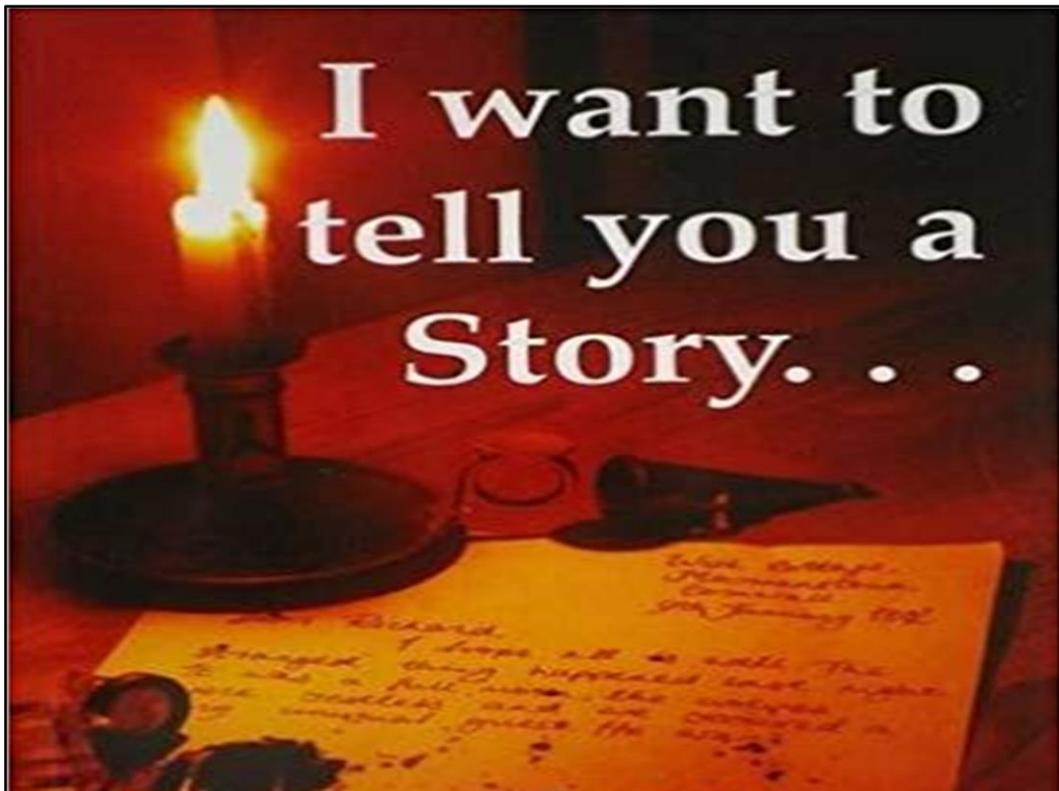
name.

DON'T BE  
*ashamed of  
your story*  
IT WILL  
INSPIRE OTHERS

Verse 11 in Luke 5 wasn't the end of the story – it wasn't the end of turbulent times and the beginning of smooth journey of discipleship. Peter, James and John didn't know that, but what they did eventually know was that their life story and their faith journeys with Jesus would inspire countless others.

And it is with us, with me; with you.

Whatever your life and faith story – it will inspire someone. Someone will long to hear of God touched your life and how responded – the good times, the dark times and the times when it has been easy to walk in step with Jesus.



The beauty of your story is that it is your story no one else's and it is a true story...it is your version of Peter meeting Jesus, then dragging his boat up onto the shore and following Jesus. Maybe for you being with Jesus has been more like the slow, long dawn from night to day; maybe it was dramatic, perhaps it was through a particular life circumstance...but for all of us, our stories are never ending stories. I pray that one day you will each be able to turn to someone in Heaven and say 'I'm glad you listened to my story'. Mission is no more than telling our story in words and actions – a drama with a happy ending.