



Chapter 5

Simon Encounters Jesus

Reflections to Journal and Share

- What did you learn about God in this encounter? About human nature? About yourself?
- Total submission to the authority of Jesus in all areas of our life is certainly not a popular notion these days, even in many parts of Christianity. Have all of our religious and cultural paradigms been sufficiently shattered by submitting them to the authority of Jesus so that we can be fully used in doing “the Lord’s work the Lord’s way?”
- Have there been times when Jesus called you to fish in the deep during the day? To do something that seems not only counter-intuitive, but puts your credibility and even your personal assets at risk? How did that work out and what did that experience do for you and to you?
- Are we still protecting (even defending) some of our flawed paradigms of success, achievement, significance, relevance, discipleship, church growth, to name but a few, even though they are significant barriers to the growth of God’s Kingdom here on earth?
- What challenges you most in this chapter? What did you hear the Spirit whisper to you or nudge you to realize as you journeyed through this chapter?

A Point to Ponder

Is submission a verb to believers today? Is submitting everything to Jesus a “given,” or have we allowed our understanding of faith to be something that we just keep compartmentalized at the intellectual level? Are we content to have the right creed, to be able to check off all the right theological and doctrinal statements, or do we understand that a living faith requires that we submit everything every day to the authority of Jesus?

It is relatively easy to turn over to Jesus those weak areas of our lives. In those areas we need all the help we can get, and we are more than willing to acknowledge that. But to take what we do best and submit that to Jesus can be a whole other issue. The question is: Have each of us been sufficiently broken in the areas of our core competencies so that Jesus can fully use them, and us, in His Kingdom for His Kingdom?

Note that if Simon had applied logic and reason from his fishing expertise to Jesus’ request, he never would have obediently submitted to Jesus’ direction. When Jesus’ call is clear, our logic and reason needs to be subordinate to submission and obedience. Otherwise, our fleshly logic and reasoning can so easily talk us out of doing what God’s Spirit is prompting us to do causing us to miss His My-ways-are-not-your-ways surprises.

Ever wonder how many times later in his apostolic life Peter harkened back to this paradigm changing experience? Doing so may well have nudged him to be obedient in situations where obedience seemed counter-intuitive as he was reminded yet again that *My ways are not your ways*.