

Boy, Awn's Nephew, Fishing near his home in Sukothai



When I first began to follow Christ I was encouraged to read the Bible. After a few years I was challenged to read the entire Bible in a year.

That began a habit that lasted many years. Pam would do the same thing and so we could help one another reach our goal every year.

In the last, I'd say 6 or 7 years what I have been doing is not reading the whole bible in a year but spending large amounts of time in a single book or on a single passage reading it again and again, letting it sink in deep. Trying to get past the superficial reading and see with new eyes what the Lord might be saying.

I encourage you to try both.

My first "long term book" was Galatians. I spent over 6 months reading it every day. Sometimes a chapter other times the whole book, but every day (near abouts) for 6 months.

Of late I have been reading Luke chapter 5. I have spent 3 weeks reading just the verses 1-11, the call of Peter and the first disciples.

A couple of things that stood out to me were:

1. Jesus engaged people in their everyday place. He connected the spiritual life and the natural life. He did not separate the two. He did not invite them to a spiritual place but entered their place.
2. Jesus would end this encounter by asking Peter to become a fisher of men. He began it by Fishing for people right from Peter's boat.
3. Luke 5:8 When Jesus asks to use Peter's boat Peter addresses Jesus as teacher (epistatēs - Supervisor, Boss man, any sort of superintendent or overseer). When he identifies the righteousness of Jesus and his own sinfulness he says Lord (kyrios - the owner; one who has control of the person). Note the comparison to Is. 6:5 followed by Is. 6:8 "the call of Isaiah".

4. Peter's change of heart occurs in view of his greater community and specifically in front of his most intimate friends. Peter is in his own world, he is not vulnerable, he is confident and self-assured. And yet at the sight of the catch it all changes.

5. Jesus says Peter Caught fish but will now Catch people. Note the two forms of Catching, Fish unto death, people unto life. Catch (agra) as in fishing for fish... a catching, hunting a booty or prey. the take the haul.. Catch (zōgreō) in verse 10, catching people is to capture specifically to take alive, take captive, only other place it appears is in 2 Tim 2.26 held Captive by the devil to do his will.

I love that Jesus from the same boat fished for both Fish and People and in reality, ultimately for Peter.

What "boat" served as your latest platform for the gospel?

Fishing Every Day,
George and Awn

PS. That last question is a real one, [send me your answer](#) and I will tell you mine.