

Called

Luke 5:1-11

February 7, 2010

Last February Kyle DeVan was a substitute teacher. Today he will be starting on the offensive line for the Indianapolis Colts. DeVan has gone from total obscurity to being one of the best human interest stories associated with today's game.

Simon was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee. One day Jesus asked Simon to push his boat out into the water so that he could use it for a podium. Peter did it. That set of a whole series of events that culminated in Simon being called to follow Jesus and to start catching men. Jesus is calling us to follow him, too. The question is will we pass the discipleship test?

It begins with the "Action Test." Jesus asked Simon for some help. Simon passed this part the test easily. He jumped in the boat, rowed out into the water so that Jesus could speak to the crowd. What are going to do when Jesus asks for your help? Will you pass the action test and do whatever is necessary to fulfill the mission the Lord gives us?

Next comes the "Will you follow directions?" test. Simon had been out fishing all night and didn't catch a thing. When Jesus told him to push out in the deep water and let down your nets, Simon could have said no way. But he didn't. Instead he said, **"Because you say so, I will let down the nets."** (Luke 5:5) Simon listened to and obeyed Jesus. How about you? Are you willing to follow Jesus' directions and go the extra mile in serving, caring, forgiving?

Simon did what Jesus told him to do and caught so many fish that they filled two boats. When they got to the shore, Simon could have said, "Did you see what I just did?" But he didn't. He passed the "Who deserve the credit" test when he looked at Jesus and said, **"Go away from me Lord, I am a sinful man!"** (Luke 5:8) Simon realized that he didn't deserve to be anywhere near Jesus. Do we give God the credit for all the great things He does in our lives?

Imagine the conversation that followed as Jesus and Simon talked about how exciting it was to haul in so many fish at one time. The Jesus challenged Simon to catch a greater vision and asked him if he wanted to wash nets or win people for Christ? Jesus is placing his greater vision in front of us. He wants us to realize that wherever life leads us is our area of influence. It is not about who we are or what we can do, but who we can reach and serve and bless in Jesus' name.

There was one final test for Simon, the “Will you leave it all behind?” test. Simon did. He didn’t know where he was going or what the future would bring. But he did know who Jesus was and what He said. And that was all he needed.

Jesus is the one who left everything behind to save us. He left heaven for earth. He left the accolades of the crowds for the loneliness of the cross. He died to pay for our sins and rose from the dead. Jesus gave up everything for us. Simon’s life was changed by Christ. Simon’s other name is Peter, the great fisher of men. Jesus is calling us today to follow Him, to be fishers of men. Will you pass the discipleship test? I hope so! I hope you enjoy the fishing.

Betty Roon is here today to tell us one way that we can take actions to help people in another part of our world. Betty.