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REASONS TO FOLLOW

Okay, let me guess. Your life is full of appointments, activities, and a few aggravations-right? If so, you may be looking for your significance in your own achievements.

After reading Luke's account of the miraculous catch (Luke 5:1-11), I want to suggest four reasons we should stop forcing our own agendas and instead start following the Master's. Each reason could be stated in a principle.

Jesus moves us from the safety of the seen to the risks of the unseen. Nothing significant occurred in shallow water. He specifically led the disciples "out into the deep water" where nobody could touch bottom (Luke 5:4). The deep is always full of uncertainties, but that's the realm God prefers. That's where God does His best work.

Jesus proves the potential by breaking our nets and filling our boats. Not one of those weary fishermen would've bet one denarius that there were so many fish in that lake! When God's hand is on a situation, nets break, bulges, deck planks groan, boats lean, and hearts change. It's His way of putting the potential on display.

Jesus conceals His surprises until we follow His leading. Everything was business as usual on the surface. Those fishing boats didn't have a halo, nets didn't tingle at their touch, the lake water didn't glow. No. The divinely arranged surprise came only after they dropped the nets.

Jesus reveals His objective to those who release their security. He could read their willingness in their faces. Then (and only then) did He tell them they'd be engaged in "catching men" (v. 10). And guess what-they ultimately jumped at the chance.

You may find it helpful, on occasion, to take this mental boat trip out into the deep. It will transform your agenda from one you're forcing to one you're following. AMEN.

~ Dr. Charles R. Swindoll

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."
Matthew 28:18 – 20

