

## **Be Available**

**In the business world: Continuous Availability Equals Competitive Advantage.**

**In the IT world:**

The role of information technology is integral to most businesses. The availability and reliability of IT services directly influences customer satisfaction and the success of the business.

**In the sports world:**

In football, soccer or baseball, having deep bench with lots of available gifted players to choose from is important. Player availability directly correlates to a team's success.

**The #1 essential quality of a Christ follower is their availability to God.**

This morning, I want to talk to you about the Being Available. It is the most important ingredient for success in the Christian life.

Let's see here how Peter became successful in life because of his availability for Him.

**Luke 5:1-3 NLT**, *"One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2 He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there."*

**I. PETER MADE HIS BOAT WAS AVAILABLE FOR JESUS.**

"He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake, ...And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, *'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.'*"

**Jesus used Simon's boat. Why? Because it was AVAILABLE!** It was ready for the Master's use. Simon was willing to use what he had for the Lord!

A boat represents anything we possess: Our Possessions.

I know that if it had been us that day, that every Christian here would have jumped at the opportunity for Jesus to sit in their boat and use it to teach others from. What an honor.

On the other hand, you might be one of those Christians who feels like you have little to nothing to offer Jesus - let alone a boat.

Remember, Galilean fishermen in that day were numbered among the peasant class or the poorer people in Judaism.

Judeans looked down on Galileans, viewing them as uneducated and of questionable heritage. They had a reputation of being troublemakers who often took part in protests and uprisings against the Roman occupiers.

Gamaliel mentioned a failed revolt led by “Judas the Galilean” in Acts 5:37.

Peter’s Galilean accent and vocabulary gave him away when he was trying to remain anonymous on the night of Jesus’ arrest.

In Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost people were astonished that Galileans were smart enough to speak other dialects. Acts 2:7.

Peter isn’t offering a yacht to Jesus, though that would have been fine to if he’d had one, he was offering a small fishing boat – about as significant as a child offering their bike to Jesus.

You don’t have to have much for Jesus to use. But whatever you make available to Him – it will become much more than you realize. Very much like the story of the young boy who made his 5 loaves of bread and two fishes available to Jesus who then fed 5000.

**Now I want you to notice the progression of Jesus’ challenge and Peter’s decision to make his boat available to Jesus.**

**In verse 3, Jesus steps into the boat and asked Peter to, “push it out into the water.”** – so He could teach people on the shore. Then in **verse 4**, Jesus says...

**“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,  
“Now go out where it is deeper.”**

*When we make our boats available to Him, even small things, He will lead us into deeper & greater things.*

Remember Peter is a poor uneducated man by most of the people's opinions in his day, but because he was AVAILABLE, God was able to teach him and train and used him in the ministry.

Eventually, Peter became the leader of the 12 disciples and became the GREAT APOSTLE who began the first church in Jerusalem.

*Have you made available what you have for the Lord? I mean, are you willing to let Him use your possessions for the furtherance of His kingdom?*

As a result of Peter's willingness to make what he had available to Jesus, God blessed him. We will see that next as Peter expands on his availability...

*Peter's boat was available, and then -*

## **II. PETER'S NETS WERE AVAILABLE FOR JESUS (vs. 4-6)**

**Luke 5:4-7 NLT**, "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again." 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking."

Jesus challenges deeper commitment and availability – first your boat – go out a little ways – go deeper – now let me use your nets!

You have done your best – but I can do better with them Peter if you will make them available to me.

You know my friends, for the first time probably in Peter's life, that boat was so filled that it couldn't contain the catch Jesus had in store. Matter of fact, it took two boats to contain the fish and they were both nearly sinking.

And it all happened only after Peter made that boat available for Jesus to share the good news with the crowds on the shore.

## **WHAT IS THE KEY TO PETER'S SUCCESS?**

It all started when he made his boat AVAILABLE. He just used what he had, then, God helped him to "***go deeper and further with Him.***"

And what else did Peter have that he needed to make available? His NETS!

Give me your nets Peter! What do Peter's nets represent?

Peter made his source of living, his business, his career - available to Jesus.

Maybe you don't have many possessions. Maybe God is just asking for you to make your livelihood available to Him. The thing **you do** to make a living. How good are you at what you do? You think you can do better with what you got than Jesus can do? I don't think so. I challenge you to put this to the test!

Peter didn't think Jesus could do any better than him either.

***“Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing.”***

*“There are no fish to be caught in that pond! It has been fished! And not by lazy ignorant fishermen. We are hard workers and we did what we do best and that didn't matter!”*

*“Hey, but if you think you can do better ... I'll do what you say and let down my already cleaned nets that I'll just have to pull in and clean all over again!”*

Maybe you think you have done everything possible without success. Let Jesus try. Make your nets available to Him. Let Him take your career – your livelihood and I promise you, He'll make you far more productive.

And if you are just wallowing in self-pity and *think “I am just the worst at what I do – it's hopeless.”*

Don't give up because of your limitations. Sometimes it is just a matter of sticking with it and gaining more experience and honing that talent or that passion God first gave you for what you do.

**Remember this:** *God isn't looking at your ability or your inability as much as He is looking for your availability. Avail whatever ability you have to God and He'll make it work!*

As you make your livelihood, business, talents and abilities available to God, He'll give you the wisdom and understanding needed to serve Him best.

Remember, Peter lets his boat be used by Jesus to preach the Word! Make your business an opportunity to share the Good News of salvation.

If you're a hard-working individual and you're always tired and busy, don't let it be an excuse to become unavailable for Jesus. Peter learned that truth.

The Lord will bless you for it. **True success will be easily achieved when the Lord is in your boat.**

Remember, King Solomon's advices:

**Proverbs 19:21**, *"Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."*

You will be amazed at what God can do with your nets if you make them available to Him for use.

*First, Peter's boat, then, Peter nets and then-*

### **III. PETER'S LIFE WAS AVAILABLE FOR JESUS (v.11)**

**Luke 1:8-11**, *"When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" 11 And as soon as they landed, **they left everything and followed Jesus.**"*

Now, notice the story. When Peter understood that when his boat and nets were made available for Jesus that some miraculous things happened. He realizes something even more profound, if I can trust Jesus with my possessions and abilities and business and livelihood, I can trust Him with my life!

Peter humbled himself before Jesus, fell to his knees!

He found out that if he gives to God all what he had, including himself and makes it all available to Him, Jesus will bless him more and more!

The verse says he left **"everything"** [*his boat, his catch, his pride and his partners*] and followed the SOURCE of everything he needed.

**Wow!** What was the result of this availability?

**Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"**

Jesus gave Peter a stable job and a bright future.

God used these words to encourage **Jeremiah in 29:11**, and I believe He desires the same for you:

*“I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”*

### **Be AVAILABLE!**

On the Day of Pentecost, Simple Peter preached and 3000 souls were saved. He became a true fisher of MAN! He became successful in his new career.

He failed in his fishing the night before he met Jesus, but because he became AVAILABLE, he found success in life. He became the GREATEST WORKER AND APOSTLE of the Lord!

### **IN CONCLUSION**

We can learn some valuable lessons in this story:

- When the Lord asked your boat, make it available for Him.
- When the Lord asked your net, make it available for Him.
- When the Lord asks for you to serve Him, **be available** for Him.

.....And he will bless you more than you can possibly imagine!

*“God isn’t looking at your ability or your inability as much as He is looking for your availability!”*

Lets pray!