

THE BIG IDEA: Catching the uncontainable requires obedience that's unexplainable.

The Take-Off

Sometimes we find ourselves a part of something a lot bigger than ourselves.

So big, in fact, that we can't really even take the credit for it.

Take Will Kellogg. He was working in a asylum making meals for patients when one day he left boiled wheat sitting out. He baked it anyway, and created a crunchy snack everyone loved. You know them as Corn Flakes made by the company with Will's last name.

Or Percy Spencer, who had the task of inspecting a magnetron - a machine that powers radar equipment - during WW2. Curious that the candy bar in his pocket melted while he inspected it, he dug a bit deeper and started on the road to the microwave oven, now in 90% of American households.

Surgeries are different because of "laughing parties" that were popular in the 1800s. People would inhale laughing gas for fun, and in 1844, Horace Wells saw someone injure his leg while under the influence. Even though the leg was bleeding, the man said he felt nothing, and anesthesia was born.

We could go on, but you get the idea. Sometimes, we find ourselves in the middle of something that is so much bigger than us, and we realize that the credit for it can't be ours.

These are the moments that God loves, and we find one in the book written by Luke.

It all starts at the edge of a lake in Luke 5. We'll pick it up in the first verse.

1. Verses 1-5 (Jesus asks for a lot) [POSSESSIONS]

- a. Jesus is hanging by the lake, and the people keep inching closer to him.
- b. I've been in India, and I totally get this. It's a weird feeling between wow and panic.
- c. This lake is the Sea of Galilee - it's about 13 miles long and 8 miles wide
- d. There's nowhere else to go, and so he sees these 2 empty boats and commandeers them.
- e. The owners are busy cleaning their nets
 - This was done in order to make them ready for the next catch
 - It signaled the end of the job
- f. Jesus picks a boat - the one that Peter owned - and asked Peter to take the boat out a bit so He could teach
- g. Jesus is asking a lot of Peter - don't miss that
- h. We are sometimes so guilty of watering down and softening the standards, but Jesus had no problem looking at a man who (as we'll see soon) was exhausted and asking him for more.
- i. Our most effective ministry is often at our most exhausted moment.
- j. Jesus isn't like the kid who tries to pick the "best" time to ask his parents for something. He will ask us at anytime, in any place, and for anything.
- k. May our answer ALWAYS be what Peter's was: simple obedience to the word of Jesus.

2. Verses 6-7 (Jesus gives a lot) [PROVISION]

- a. Never think for a moment that our Savior is a maniacal overlord who enjoys making us jump through hoops for no reason.
- b. He is not a drill sergeant commanding us to dig a hole and then fill it.
- c. A lot of people see God that way, but Hebrews 11:6 tells us that a big part of the Christian faith is not just believing that God is, but that He rewards (pays a wage) those who seek Him.
- d. Yes, Jesus asked a lot of Peter, but it paled in comparison to what Jesus gave Peter - an uncontainable catch
- e. When we offer God what we possess, He takes it and fills it with His provision
- f. It was more than they could handle, but it was also more than they could explain, and that's what led to Peter's confession

3. Verses 8-11 (Jesus offers a lot) [PURPOSE]

- a. Do you know why so many of us can live so easily without God?
- b. It's because we've never allowed Him to work just beyond our reach.
- c. We call the shots, we play it safe, and so everything in our lives can be explained
- d. But when we do what seems undignified and even unnecessary - just because we want to be obedient - we can find ourselves looking at a catch that WE KNOW WAS BEYOND OUR REACH

- e. That's when we see ourselves in light of how great God is, and that's what happened to Peter
- f. In verses 8-10, all these knowledgeable fisherman realize that they've received something that they could never have made happen
- g. They are Will Kelloggs with boats full of corn flakes!
- h. The uncontainable catch revealed that for all their knowledge, the only thing Jesus really needed from them was obedience.
- i. Obedience when they were tired.
- j. Obedience when they had already allowed Jesus to use their stuff.
- k. Obedience when they had done the best they could with what they had.
- l. It was an unexplainable obedience - it was like the undignified King last week - it didn't make sense
- m. But they did it, and that's the Big Idea: **Catching the uncontainable requires obedience that's unexplainable.**
- n. And look at the last part of verse 10 - After Jesus has asked for a lot and given a lot, He offers a lot
- o. He offers them a life of PURPOSE, and this uncontainable catch changed them so much that they left everything behind
- p. He offers us that same life of purpose - John 20:21 - we're sent like He was (Luke 19:10 - to seek and save)

The Landing

So, what does it all mean for you and me and for our church?

I asked God this one day last week as I was running, and here's what He told me: "Paul, you always make yourself the hero of this story."

What? "You see yourself as Peter, as the one who makes the big catch, but there was another boat with other fisherman who aren't named." (see Luke 5:9 "and all of his companions...")

I felt like God asked me if I was willing to be an unnamed participant in an uncontainable catch.

Are we willing - like the unnamed fisherman in the story - to simply, obediently - put another boat in the water?

And my answer is "yes"

So our church - beginning September 7th - is going to put another boat in the water, because we believe that it's time and that God has told us to

Are some tired? Yes. But so was Peter, and so were the unnamed partners.

It may look foolish, but sometimes - as we saw last week - obedience can't be explained.

But, **catching the uncontainable requires obedience that's unexplainable.**

AN UNCONTAINABLE CATCH FOLLOWS UNCONDITIONAL

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