

## When giving up control is a good thing

**Text:** Acts 27:25



*Hi everybody,*

Lying in bed and basically feeling rather sorry for myself. I have recently come down with a bad bout of the flu that has left me feeling sick, sore and miserable. What makes matters worse is that this Sunday I was supposed to compete in our annual Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club championships. Don't get me wrong; of course there are more important things in life than Jiu-Jitsu but I have been training very hard for this particular tournament and feel quite disappointed that I will not be well enough to compete on Sunday. In fact I feel like 100 years old just getting out of bed to go to the toilet. I must have used up four or five toilet rolls blowing my nose. The truth is I hate not being in control of my life and especially in circumstances I cannot influence. Perhaps God is trying to teach me something! Perhaps I have been so busy running around doing things for God and being in control all the time that I need to "chill in bed" and let God take control of saving the world.

In Luke chapter 5:1-11 we find the story of Jesus calling the first disciples to follow him. I would like to use this story to illustrate the point of letting God take control in all areas of our lives. Unless we are willing to let go of always having to be in control all the time God cannot work miracles in our lives. As you will recall the crowds were pressing in on Jesus to such an extent that He asked Peter if He could borrow his boat to speak to them. Peter agreed, and we are told that Jesus launched out a little from the shore and spoke to this large group of people. After He was finished speaking to the multitude, He said to Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (verse 4).

Peter immediately responded, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net" (verse 5). Here it is important to notice that Peter used a unique nautical term in his response to Jesus, which could be translated, "We have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless as Master or Captain of this boat, we will do it."

Let's just make certain things very clear. To begin with Jesus was what we would call a land dweller. He was not a person who spent any time on the water. He was a rabbi – a teacher and a preacher. So when He said, "Let's go fishing," I can imagine Peter might have been saying, "You know, Rabbi, with all due respect, when it comes to teaching, you definitely have some very interesting thoughts and ideas. But this is kind of our thing. Fishing is what we do best. We know the way to catch fish, we know when fish bite, and more importantly we know when to go and when not to go. In fact, if you have not noticed we have already been fishing all night. This is a total waste of time."

I don't know how Peter said what he said to Jesus or the tone of voice he used. I don't even know what caused Peter to eventually do as Jesus requested. But I know this much: when they launched out into the deep, there were so many fish in their nets that the nets began to break and the boat even began to sink. Another boat was quickly brought up, and it too was overwhelmed with fish as well. Do we really understand what is happening here? The truth is if we insist on always being in control all the time we might very well never experience what it means to truly trust God.

Let me ask you a personal question: Is Jesus the Captain/Master of your boat? Let Him be that for you. Let Him take control of your life and your life circumstances. Let him take control of your busy schedules. Let him take control of your family and your plans for the future. I know now as I lay sick in bed that I need him desperately to take control in not just one of these areas but in every area of my life.

God bless

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