

# The Stories That Remain

*Distracted*

Pastor Craig Sweeney | June 11, 2023

**Thread:** Distractions come at a heavy cost, so let's manage them well.

**Text:** *"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. He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 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...And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."* Luke 5:1 – 3, 11 NLT

**People want to experience God.**

- 71% Americans see Jesus as positive,
- 47% see the Church in a positive light in their community.

**What we experience when we are with Jesus is what others should experience when they are with us.**

**Question:** What do people experience when they experience ME/YOU?

*"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.' And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 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. 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.' For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed..."* Luke 5:4 – 10 NLT

**Jesus blessed their WORK.**

- He increased their productivity.
- God cares about your work and He can use it for the kingdom of God.

**Want to draw the favor of the Lord at your workplace?**

- Ask for it.
- Take it seriously.
- Give God something to bless with your BEST efforts.
- There isn't a blessing for those turning in half efforts.

*"...Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."* Luke 5:10 – 11 NLT

**Challenge:**

- I will be the LIVING, breathing kingdom of God to the world around me.
- I will bring the kingdom of God to my workplace.

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