

Worthy

Luke 5:8, *But when Simon Peter saw it (the miraculous catch of fish), he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."*

"We're not worthy, we're not worthy!" Wayne's World, Saturday Night Live, Mike Myers and Dana Carvey. Maybe that doesn't strike a chord with you. Have you ever been in the presence of greatness and felt just a little "unworthy" to be around? I've been in numerous situations, whether with science guys at the museum or God's guys at the Seminary, where I have felt quite out of my league. I don't deserve to be around these folks. I'm not worthy.

Peter is in the boat when the vast amount of fish are being pulled in. He sees Jesus as a man of God, a rabbi of some power, a holy guy. He knows that he is in the presence of greatness, though he doesn't quite realize how great. "I don't deserve to be around you, Jesus." A guy who fishes for a living doesn't measure up to the standards of a rabbi. A guy who sins, who messes up, shouldn't be around someone with such greatness.

When was the last time you felt unworthy to be around God? When was the last time you felt unworthy to be around your wife or husband? The toughest question, when was the last time you felt unworthy to be? It feels terrible to feel unworthy. We are sinful human beings, prone to making poor decisions and constantly being reminded of that fact. It doesn't feel very good. Like Peter, we often would ask God to depart because we're just not worthy.

Jesus is in the boat, with Peter the sinful fisherman and with you and me. He doesn't step out of the boat and leave Peter. He tells him, "Do not be afraid." Jesus tells you and me, the unworthy sinners, do not be afraid. Yes, you are out of your league when it comes to holiness. But do not be afraid. I'm not here to condemn you or kill you. That's not why I'm in your boat. I'm in your boat because I love you and I have bigger plans for you. Eternal plans. Amazing plans.

For Peter, Jesus calls him to discipleship--to evangelism, to proclamation. For you and for me, he is in our boat with forgiveness, grace, peace and love. He calls us to life. Everyday, ordinary plain ol' life. But in that life, because of the Holy Spirit, you are worthy. You are worthy because Jesus is worthy. You are worthy because you are worth the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. We are not worthy on our own to stand in the presence of God, but because of Jesus, because he is in our boat, we are worthy. You are worth more to God than anything else in all of creation. You are his!

Heavenly Father, we're not worthy on our own. We are sinful, broken people. Humbly, we thank you for your sacrifice, the life of your Son, the holy, the worthy one. Thank you for forgiveness and the Holy Spirit, the one that calls, enlightens and sanctifies (makes us holy and worthy). May we always walk in that grace and know your love for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.