



# MOUNTAIN STREAM NEWS

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www.mountainstreamchurch.com

## NEW POSSIBILITIES

### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



*Luke 5:5-6  
And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.*

The presence of Jesus in our lives provides a marvelous array of new possibilities. Even things that we have tried unsuccessfully can be gloriously transformed by His power and presence. Peter, who would soon become an apostle, experienced this and was greatly moved to follow Jesus.

In Luke 5:1-11, Jesus borrowed Peter's boat from which to preach to a pressing crowd. Having completed His address, Jesus instructed Peter to head out into the deep for a draught of fish. Peter, the experienced fisherman, replied that he and his friends had toiled all night fishing and caught nothing. Peter's experience that night had ended

in frustration. He was ready to clean his nets and go rest after a wasted night. The temptation to disregard Jesus' request politely but firmly must have been strong in Peter's heart. After all, what could this great religious teacher know about fishing? Peter was a fisherman by profession. He could teach Jesus a thing or two about fishing.

Nevertheless, Peter chose to obey – just because Jesus told him to. "But at your word, I will..." More powerful words have never been spoken. "Despite my expertise, despite my experience, despite my recent failure, because you say it Lord, I will do it." That act of humble obedience transformed Peter's life (and will transform ours too!). When Peter let his nets down, he got such a large catch of fish that his nets began to break. He had to call his friends to bring their boats over to help! Wow.

When Christ steps into our circumstances the possibilities are endless. Some of us may have labored unsuccessfully over some circumstance or habit that has dominated and frustrated us for years. We have invested all our determination and

skill. We have diligently followed all the advice of the experts with nothing but repeated failure as our reward. We have accepted the idea that we will never overcome this situation. Yet Jesus comes promising us change and victory. We are tempted to disobey and disregard Jesus' invitation. We know from bitter experience that His promise sounds highly unlikely if not impossible. But this is Jesus we are dealing with. He is God and Lord. When we obey Him, His power is unleashed in our lives. He does for us what no amount of personal skill or expertise could accomplish. Our part is simply to obey and let Him do His work.

My friend, what is it that has been frustrating you in your spiritual walk? Listen to Jesus' promise of victory. Obey Him and be amazed.

The presence of Jesus in our circumstances opens the door to incredible possibilities. May God help you to walk through that door in this new year.

God bless you,  
Pastor James

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

**CORPORATE PRAYER**  
TUE @ 7 PM

**JAN 2**

Join us via Zoom video  
Please contact Pastor James  
for log on information at  
rcantio@gmail.com

**YOUTH GROUP**  
FRI @ 6:45 PM

**JAN 5**

In-person at church.  
For teens  
ages 13 and over

**EVENING SERVICE**  
1st & 3rd  
SUN @ 6 PM

**JAN 7 & JAN 21**

Join us in-person  
at church

**KIDZONE & NURSERY**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**JAN 7**

These ministries are  
available every Sunday  
during the morning service  
Kidzone for ages  
6-12 yrs. old.

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUN @ 11 AM

**JAN 7**

In-person service and  
Livestreaming on Facebook,  
Youtube and our webpage.

- May God bless you richly this New Year!
- The church's Annual Business Meeting will be held January 13th, 2024 at 4 pm at the church. All members please plan to attend this important meeting.
- The 2024 Nominees for church officers are posted at the Information Center. Members, begin praying about whom God would have us select.
- We need a few more members to help us in our nursery. Please speak to Indira if you are able to help.
- If you'd like a one-year Bible reading plan for 2024 you may find Pastor Jimmie Van Sant's at [PJVS1.blogspot.com](mailto:PJVS1.blogspot.com).
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

### QUICK TIPS ON WAYS TO GIVE YOUR OFFERING

Traditional during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!