

LUKE 5:1-11

LESSON: FORSAKING ALL TO FOLLOW HIM —December 29, 2019

INTRODUCTION

Jesus came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. Capernaum became the headquarters of Jesus (4:31). He set out to catch men, that is, to draw them to God. He desires to catch all men, but, He is unable to do that by Himself. He needs help, and that help will come from all who will follow Him. He preached in the synagogues of Galilee (4:44). He now gives others the opportunity as well. He knew that the more He could reach and disciple others, the more others would hear and be reached; they would hear and be drawn in by the goodness of God. So, He set out to tell others.

LESSON: I. TIME TO FISH LUKE 5:1-5

5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,— This begins the journey of how Jesus will catch men. The background is at *“the Lake of Gennesaret,”* which is another name for the *“Sea of Galilee.”* The people were actually pressing in upon Jesus, meaning they gathered and crowded around Him. Why? - To hear the Word of God. They had a craving, a hunger and a thirst after righteousness. And Jesus was there to meet their need.

5:2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. As Jesus looks around, He sees that there are two fishing ships docked at the Lake of Gennesaret because the fishermen had gone out to wash their nets. Nets had to be kept in good condition, so they were washed to remove weeds and etc., and then be mended.

5:3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Jesus enters one of the ships out of the two that were docked. He has a purpose in everything He does. He first asked Simon if he would thrust out, meaning push out a little into the water. At this time His first purpose was to sit down in the ship so He could teach the people from within the ship. Jesus uses Simon's boat as a pulpit from which to teach the crowd on the shore. Then there would be no crowding Him, and the people could either sit or stand in a peaceful fashion on the shore and all could see and hear Him.

5:4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. After Jesus had finished His message, He commands Simon (Peter) to *“launch out into the deep”* water *“so he could let down his nets for an overflow.”* Jesus does not say anything He does not mean. He means what He says.

5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. Simon (Peter) is undoubtedly tired and frustrated and tells Jesus that those on board had fished all night and caught nothing. And then without hesitation he says, *“Nevertheless!”*, meaning, in spite of or despite the circumstances, *“at your Word I will let down the net.”*

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Jesus' second purpose was to humble Simon and win his loyalty as a follower. He was obedient at the command of Jesus' Word; we have to remember Simon called Jesus, "Master. "

II. TIME TO STOP FISHING LUKE 5:6-11

5:6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And as they let down their net, there was a great catch made because of the Word of God and Peter's obedience. There were so much fish that even their net began to brake.

5:7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. Simon (Peter) had to call for help from his partners in the other ship to help bring the catch, and they were both loaded with fish to the point of sinking. Jesus' third purpose was to produce results, that is, work a miracle that no ordinary fisherman could do, but the Messiah could.

5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. The first step of calling men is stirring confession. This brought Simon Peter to his knees before Jesus, for he realized that he was a sinful man. Jesus' fourth purpose was for man to see his own sinful nature while in his brokenness

1. Peter confessed his sin of being reluctant to obey the Lord, or of having a tone of questioning the Lord's Will and knowledge and power.
2. Peter confessed Jesus to be Lord.

5:9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:— Peter and all that were around were in astonishment at the great catch of fish.

5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. Jesus told James and John (sons of Zebedee) that they were not to fear for they would be fishers of men; they would catch men's (hearts). The other side of fear is trust. Jesus calls Peter, James, and John trusted Jesus to become His first disciples.

5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him. Then as James and John and Simon brought their ships to shore, they decided to forsake all—leaving their ships; leaving their nets; leaving their past behind, and devoting their future to Jesus by following Him.

SUMMARY:

The background is at ¹"the Lake of Gennesaret," which is another name for the Sea of Galilee. Jesus enters one of the ships out of the two ships in the sea. He uses Peter's boat as a pulpit from which to preach to the crowd on the shore. After Jesus finishes His message, He commands Peter to *"launch out*



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into the deep” water. Peter tells Jesus that he had fished all night and caught nothing **(5:1-5)**

Nevertheless, he was obedient at Jesus’ Word and the great catch Jesus referred to happened because of the Word of God and Peter’s obedience. Peter had to call for help from the other ship to help him bring the catch, causing both ships to begin to sink. This brought Simon to his knees before Jesus, for he realized that he was a sinful man. The first step of calling men is stirring confession. Peter and all that were around were astonished at the catch of fish. Jesus told James and John (sons of Zebedee) that they were not to fear, for they would be fishers of men; they would catch men’s (hearts). Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to become His first disciples. Then as they brought their ships to shore, they decided to forsake all, and followed Jesus **(5:6-11)**.

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