

When Jesus Went Fishing
(or: the greatest catch)
(Lk.5:1-11)

1

Preaching in synagogues, Lk.4:43-44

Now, near the Lake of Gennesaret...

Lake of
Gennesaret

Sea of Tiberias

Sea of Galilee

In Jesus' day,
nine townships
clustered
around shores



Multitude pressed about Him

- Eager crowd was common
 - What He said
 - How He said it
 - What He did (Mk.12:37)

To hear the word of God

2

Two boats – one became portable pulpit

Nets

- Hook: Mt.17:27 (Temple tax). Am.4:2, used on Israel.
- Fishing spears: Job 41:7: depicted in Egyptian inscriptions.
- Dragnet (drawnet): Mt.13:47-48.
- Hand net (casting net) Mk.1:16-17. Circular form, about 15' diameter, with lead sinkers.

3

Creator of universe borrowed a boat . . .

- womb...donkey....room...tomb

Jesus had already renamed Simon (Jn.1:42)

- Mk.1:16-18
- Lk.4:38-39

Jesus sat and taught (as audience usually sat, 4:20)

4

“your” (plural) nets – hired men, Mk.1:20

Was Lord paying rent? Concerned for disappointed fishermen?

Does a carpenter know more about fishing than professional fishermen?

- He orders Peter to . . .
 - An unlikely place (deep water)
 - At wrong time (near noon?)

5

- Peter has stayed with Jesus in the boat as He preached
- Peter 'knew' this plan would not work:
 - Day
 - Fish are not 'biting'
- Peter shows respect: *Master* (6x in Luke) – One whose orders must be obeyed
- Peter will trust and obey

6

- Miracle: He caused this result at this moment
- Great number...net breaking
 - Jn.21:...11
- Reveals –
 - Omniscience. Jn.1:47-49
 - Omnipotence. Mt.17:27

7

- Signaled: fishermen communication
- Sink: nets and boats too small

8

- ‘Lord’ – (v.5, ‘Master’)
- Peter ... fell at Lord’s knees, ‘Depart...’
 - Ex.20:9, Israel; Jg.13:22, Manoah...
- Miracle invaded Peter’s turf: fishing

9

- Astonished: 'surround; take hold of completely; seize, come upon – *amazement seized him.*

10

- Partners (in business) with Simon
- Do not fear (*stop being afraid*)
- Best catch of all – people

11

- Walked away from the greatest catch . . .
 1. *Already believed on Him as Messiah, Jn.1:35ff.*
 2. *Had become His companions without leaving jobs, Mt.4:18-22*
 3. *Now, they forsake all*

Only he who leaves all can gain all

- Huge catch would supply needs of their families

I. The promise (4)

“For a catch”

- After a long night...yet Peter drops net at His command...
- Experienced fishermen knew it was hopeless, but...
- ‘Sinful man’ (8). 1 Tim.1:15

I. The promise

II. Launch out into the deep (4)

Go where the fish are

Depth

- Mt.13:5, stony soil: 20-21
- Do not be a shallow disciple in . . .
 1. Commitment, Rv.3
 2. Knowledge, Ep.3¹⁸ may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—¹⁹ to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Depth requires . . .

- **Study** – dig deep. 2 Tim.2:15
- **Submission** – 1 Tim.1:15
- **Scrutiny** – 1 Co.11:28
- **Sanctification** – Jn.17:17
- **Steadfastness** – 1 Co.15:58. Fishermen are patient...

I. The promise

II. Launch out into the deep

III. Fishers for men (5-10)

Fishers worked all night – caught nothing (5)

- If we work to catch souls, we are a success if we catch nothing

6: what is success

- “They caught a boatload of fish”??
- Correct answer: they obeyed the Lord
- They obeyed even if the command seemed foolish

I. The promise

II. Launch out into the deep

III. Fishers for men

IV. The catcher is caught, (8-9)

Peter's progress

1. Familiarity with the **Teacher** (3)
2. Faith in the **Master** (5)
3. Fear before the **Lord** (8)

Peter's struggles (8-9)

- Seized with fear, amazement, awe (as 4:36) and humility.
- 11: they leave it all behind.
 - Being caught is better than catching.
 - Only other alternative – 2 Tim.2:26
 - Not so wedded to work, family, recreation that they do not follow Jesus.
 - Lk.18:28, all apostles

Acts 2:...41, first casting of the net...

- People on Pentecost did what Peter and partners did –
 - Listened when Lord speak
 - Labored when He commanded
 - Believed what He promised
 - Followed where He went

The biggest catch

- NOT Lk.5:6
- NOT Ac.2
- BUT Lk.5:11 – Jesus hooked the fishermen
– they forsook all, followed Him
 - Their spiritual fishing would catch innumerable souls