

2/9/14

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS  
COME, WEEK 27

TITLE: **WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FISH WITH JESUS**

TEXT: LUKE 5:1-11

INTRODUCTION: (1) I HAVE MEMORIES AS A BOY OF GOING FISHING WITH MY DAD AND THEN MY STEP-DAD.

\* IN FACT, I EVEN HAVE A MEMORY OF MY STEP-DAD TAKING MY DAD AND I FISHING, WHICH WOULD SEEM KIND OF BIZARRE, BUT MY DAD WAS DISABLED WITH THE DISEASE OF M.S. AND MY STEP-DAD ONE DAY WITH ME, PICKED UP MY DAD AT THE NURSING HOME, LIFTED HIM OUT OF THE CAR AND SET HIM IN A CHAIR NEXT TO THE WATER TO FISH.

\*\* THAT HAD A BIG IMPACT ON ME AS A BOY OF SEEING KINDNESS AND COMPASSION IN ACTION.

\*\*\* BUT MOST OF ALL GOING FISHING WAS FUN.  
IT WAS TIME WITH MY DAD AND STEP-DAD.

\*\*\*\* CATCHING FISH WAS FUN AND  
AFTERWARDS WHAT WAS GREAT WAS GOING TO  
GET AN ICE CREAM CONE ON THE WAY HOME.

**(2) BUT THERE WERE TWO THINGS I DIDN'T LIKE**  
ABOUT FISHING. NO. 1 GETTING UP BEFORE THE  
CRACK OF DAWN; AND NO. 2, MOST OF ALL,  
WAS GOING AND NOT CATCHING ANYTHING. IT  
COULD BE REAL BORING AS A BOY, NOT  
APPRECIATING CREATION AND THE BEAUTY OF  
A LAKE OR A STREAM AT THAT TIME.

\* BUT GOING WITH MY DADS WAS NEAT.

\*\* NOW IMAGINE WITH ME THIS MORNING,  
WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO FISH WITH JESUS.

\*\*\* AND MY FIRST THOUGHT IS IT WOULD BE GREAT! JESUS KNOWS WHERE THE FISH ARE, **HE'S THE CREATOR OF EVERYTHING INCLUDING** THE FISH, SO HE CAN MAKE THEM BE WHERE HE WANTS THEM TO BE, SO YOU WOULD ALWAYS CATCH SOMETHING, IF HE WANTED YOU TO.

\*\*\*\* BUT THE GREATER TRUTH IS, WHEN YOU GO FISHING WITH JESUS IN A BOAT, GOD IS IN THE BOAT WITH YOU, BOTH AN ENCOURAGING AND TERRIFYING PROPOSITION.

**(3) AND IT'S ENCOURAGING BECAUSE GOD** CONTROLS THE WAVES, HE CONTROLS THE WATER AND HE CONTROLS THE FISH BECAUSE HE CONTROLS EVERYTHING.

**\* BUT IT'S TERRIFYING BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY.** AND IN THE LIGHT OF HIS PRESENCE, HIS HOLINESS, YOUR SIN IS EXPOSED AND YOU SEE WHO YOU ARE, YOU ARE REVEALED TO YOURSELF, AND IN THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY ONE, YOU SEE HOW UNHOLY YOU ARE AND YOU WANT TO RUN AWAY, YOU SEE THAT YOU ARE UNWORTHY TO BE IN HIS HOLY VIEW.

\*\* BUT THE ONLY PROPER RESPONSE IS AWE AND AMAZEMENT, BOWING BEFORE HIM, TURNING TO HIM, RUNNING TO HIM, FOR GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FORGIVE YOUR SINS.

\*\*\* WELL, SIMON PETER IN OUR TEXT TODAY GOES FISHING WITH JESUS. AND IT WAS LIKE NO FISHING EXPERIENCE PETER HAD EVER HAD AS A PROFESSIONAL FISHERMAN.

\*\*\*\* AND ALTHOUGH PETER WILL HAVE HIS BEST FISHING DAY OF HIS LIFE, IT MEANS NOTHING IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY.

(4) FOR PETER SEES HIMSELF AS HE NEVER HAD IN HIS ENTIRE LIFE AS A SINNER IN NEED OF A SAVIOR AND WILL FOLLOW JESUS, LEAVING EVERYTHING BEHIND INCLUDING HIS BOAT, HIS NETS, AND ALL THE FISH THEY CAUGHT THAT DAY.

\* AND THIS DAY WAS THE BEST DAY OF HIS LIFE, NOT BECAUSE HE CAUGHT MORE FISH THAN EVER BEFORE, BUT BECAUSE HE SAW JESUS THAT DAY IN WHO HE WAS AS GOD, AND JESUS BECAME HIS LORD, AND HE LEFT HIS BUSINESS BEHIND AND FOLLOWED JESUS.

\*\* WHAT A DAY! ONE HE WOULD NEVER FORGET. THE FISHERMAN TURNED INTO A FISHER OF MEN.

**\*\*\* BECAUSE OF THAT, I'VE TITLED OUR MESSAGE TODAY, "WHAT IT'S LIKE TO FISH WITH JESUS."**

\*\*\*\* AND FOUR POINTS WILL GUIDE US THROUGH LUKE 5:1-11. NO. 1 THE REGION JESUS IS MINISTERING IN, VV. 1-3; NO. 2 THE REQUIREMENT FOR PETER IN FISHING WITH JESUS, V. 4; NO. 3 THE RELUCTANCE OF PETER TO DO WHAT JESUS TOLD HIM TO DO, VV. 5-7; AND NO. 4 THE RECOGNITION BY PETER OF WHO JESUS REALLY IS, VV. 8-11.

(5) AND WITHOUT FURTHER INTRODUCTION, **LET'S GO FISHING TODAY WITH JESUS BY** LOOKING AT OUR FIRST POINT, THE REGION, WHERE PETER IS A FISHERMAN. LOOK AT V. 1 PLEASE.

I. THE REGION, (READ V. 1)

A. NOW THE REGION THAT JESUS CONTINUES TO MINISTER IN IS GALILEE IN NORTHERN ISRAEL, FOR IT SAYS IN V. 1 THAT JESUS WAS STANDING BY THE LAKE OF GENNESARET, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE SEA OF GALILEE, CALLED BY THE APOSTLE JOHN THE SEA OF TIBERIAS AND THE O.T. REFERRING TO IT AS THE SEA OF CHINNERETH. (PICTURE OF SEA OF GALILEE)

\* NOW THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SEA OF GALILEE IS THE REGION, THE PLACE WHERE THE EVENTS OF OUR STUDY TAKE PLACE.

**\*\* AND WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE PETER'S HOME TOWN AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME IS CAPERNAUM, AND THAT'S WHERE PETER'S BOAT WOULD BE ALONG WITH HIS PARTNERS BOAT, JAMES AND JOHN, THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE, TWO FUTURE APOSTLES, LIKE PETER.**

\*\*\* NOW AS YOU CAN SEE, THE LAKE OF GENNESERAT OR THE SEA OF GALILEE IS A BEAUTIFUL FRESHWATER LAKE, NEARLY 700 FEET BELOW SEA LEVEL.

\*\*\*\* IT IS 13 MILES WIDE BY 7 MILES LONG AND ABOUT 150 FEET DEEP AND IS THE DOMINANT GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURE OF THE ENTIRE REGION OF GALILEE.

1. WELL, WITH ALL THAT BACKGROUND OF THIS REGION BEFORE US, THIS IS WHERE JESUS IS AT IN LUKE 5:1-11, AND THE CROWD IS SO BIG THAT THEY ARE PRESSING, SURGING AROUND JESUS, LISTENING TO THE WORD AND MOST LIKELY LOOKING FOR SOME MORE MIRACLES.

\* SO WITH THE CROWD ALL AROUND JESUS, PRESSING IN ON HIM, IT WAS MOST LIKELY DIFFICULT TO HEAR AS PEOPLE ARE ALMOST ON TOP OF EACH OTHER AND JESUS. SO JESUS DOES SOMETHING ABOUT IT. LOOK AT V. 2 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 2. NOW BEING PRESSED AGAINST THE WATER ON THAT CROWDED SHORE, JESUS SAW TWO BOATS LYING AT THE EDGE OF THE LAKE. (PICTURE OF BOAT)

\* NOW YOU CAN SEE ON THE SCREEN A PICTURE OF A GALILEAN FISHING BOAT THAT GORDON AND BETSY TOOK AND THESE BOATS WERE PRETTY GOOD SIZE, NOT LITTLE ROWBOATS.

\*\* IN FACT THEY WERE LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD JESUS AND THE 12.



\*\*\* AND THESE PARTICULAR BOATS WERE ANCHORED OR BEACHED TO THE SHORE DURING THE DAY, AS PETER AND MOST LIKELY ANDREW, JAMES AND JOHN AND A FEW MORE MEN WERE WASHING THEIR NETS IN PREPARATION FOR **THE NEXT NIGHT'S FISHING.**

\*\*\*\* FOR FISHING ON LAKE GENNESARET, THE SEA OF GALILEE WAS GENERALLY DONE AT NIGHT, SO THE FISHERMAN REPAIRED AND WASHED THEIR NETS AND WORKED ON THEIR BOATS DURING THE DAY.

1. WELL, AS THE FISHERMAN ARE OUT OF THEIR BOATS, JESUS MAKES A STRATEGIC MOVE IN V. 3. LOOK AT V. 3 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 3. NOW TO CREATE SOME SPACE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE CROWD THAT WAS SHOVING AND JOSTLING FOR POSITION AROUND JESUS, AND SO THAT PEOPLE COULD HEAR JESUS MORE CLEARLY, JESUS GOT INTO ONE OF THE BOATS OWNED BY WHOM? PETER.

\* AND JESUS NEVER JUST DOES SOMETHING WITHOUT REASON, PURPOSE OR RANDOMLY.

**\*\* FOR JESUS NEEDED PETER'S BOAT TO TEACH.**  
BUT JESUS WANTED PETER IN THE BOAT TO LISTEN, TO LEARN, AND TO SEE A GREAT MIRACLE, TO CALL PETER TO HIMSELF.

\*\*\* SO JESUS GETS INTO THE BOAT AND PETER IS MOST LIKELY RIGHT BY THE BOAT WASHING HIS NETS, AND JESUS TELLS HIM TO GET IN AND TO PUT OUT A LITTLE WAY FROM LAND SO THAT JESUS CAN BE HEARD AND SEEN TO TEACH, AND AS JEWISH TEACHERS DID IN THAT DAY, JESUS SAT DOWN TO TEACH.

\*\*\*\* AND JESUS WILL GIVE PETER A COMMAND **IN V. 4, WHICH IS OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE REQUIREMENT.** LOOK AT V. 4 PLEASE.

## II. THE REQUIREMENT, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW WHEN JESUS WAS FINISHED TEACHING, HE GIVES PETER A COMMAND.

**\* AND I SAY A COMMAND FOR THE VERB "PUT OUT" OR "LAUNCH OUT" DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE IS IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD, MEANING THAT IT IS A COMMAND.**

**\*\* AND THE COMMAND IS GIVEN TO PETER, ONE PERSON, FOR IT IS A SECOND PERSON SINGULAR VERB.**

**\*\*\* BUT THEN ANOTHER COMMAND IS GIVEN, "LET DOWN," LET DOWN YOUR NETS, ALSO IN THE IMPERATIVE MOOD, BUT THIS VERB IS A SECOND PERSON PLURAL WHICH MEANS MORE THAN ONE PERSON, FOR THESE NETS WERE HUGE, AND THIS COMMAND MUST BE GIVEN FOR **PETER'S ENTIRE CREW OF HELPERS OR WORKERS**, WHICH OBVIOUSLY GOT INTO THE BOAT WITH PETER IN V. 3.**

**\*\*\*\* BUT THE INITIAL COMMAND IS GIVEN TO**

## **PETER, FOR IT'S HIS BOAT AND HE'S IN CHARGE.**

1. SO PETER IS THE GUY WHO MUST PULL THE TRIGGER IF THEY ARE GOING TO LAUNCH OUT INTO DEEPER WATERS.

\* THE REQUIREMENT FOR PETER WILL BE FAITH, THE REQUIREMENT FOR PETER WILL BE OBEDIENCE.

\*\* AND ALTHOUGH THE MAIN TEACHING TIME WAS OVER, THERE WAS ANOTHER GREAT LESSON TO BE LEARNED BY PETER AND HIS CREW, MOST LIKELY ANDREW HIS BROTHER AND OTHERS, INCLUDING JAMES AND JOHN WHOM WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE SECOND BOAT IN A SHORT TIME.

\*\*\* HOWEVER, THE REQUIREMENT FOR PETER WAS FAITH AND OBEDIENCE. WOULD HE HEED THE COMMANDS? WELL, LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE PETER'S RELUCTANCE, OUR 3'D POINT TODAY.**

### III. THE RELUCTANCE, (READ V. 5)

A. NOW THIS IS KIND OF HUMOROUS TO ME. FOR PICTURE THE SCENE: SIMON AND OTHER EXPERIENCED CAREER, VETERAN FISHERMEN, SALTY OLD FISHERMEN HAVE BEEN TRYING ALL NIGHT TO CATCH FISH.

\* THEY KNOW THE LAKE, THEY KNOW THEIR TRADE, THEY ARE MASTER FISHERMEN.

\*\* WELL, JESUS, A CARPENTER TELLS THESE TIRED MEN WHOM ARE PROBABLY RUBBING THEIR EYES FROM A LONG FRUITLESS NIGHT, AND THEY ARE READY TO FINISH CLEANING THEIR NETS AND GO HOME TO SLEEP.

\*\*\* WELL, JESUS A CARPENTER TELLS THESE VETERAN FISHERMEN WHAT TO DO, IT WOULD BE LIKE ME TELLING LEBRON JAMES HOW TO DUNK. I MEAN ON THE SURFACE FOR PETER TO BE TOLD BY A CARPENTER HOW TO FISH WOULD BE CRAZY.

\*\*\*\* HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THINKING, JESUS YOU TAKE CARE OF PREACHING, TEACHING AND **MAKING FURNITURE, AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE FISHING.**

1. AND YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THERE WOULD **BE SOME RELUCTANCE FROM PETER, I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCESS AGAIN, CLEAN OUR NETS AGAIN, THEN GO OUT TONIGHT, I'LL BE EXHAUSTED.**

\* AND NOTICE HE CALLS JESUS MASTER HERE IN V. 5, A GREEK WORD THAT MEANS COMMANDER, CHIEF, A RESPECTFUL TITLE FOR ONE IN AUTHORITY, NOT LORD, NOT AN AFFIRMATION OF DEITY.

\*\* AND PETER HAS GREAT RESPECT FOR JESUS **AT THIS TIME, HE'S HEARD HIM PREACH AND TEACH AND JESUS HEALED HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW. SO THERE IS GREAT RESPECT, BUT AT THIS POINT HE DIDN'T SEE JESUS AS GOD,** HOWEVER IN RESPECT HE DOES WHAT JESUS

TELLS HIM TO DO.

\*\*\* WELL, WHAT HAPPENS AS THEY THROW THEIR NETS OUT INTO THE DEEP? WELL LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 6. **NOW IF JESUS CHRIST'S** COMMAND SURPRISED PETER, TO LET DOWN HIS NETS IN THE DEEP FOR A CATCH, THE RESULT MUST HAVE BLOWN HIM AWAY!

\* FOR WHEN THEY LET DOWN THE NETS, MUCH TO THEIR AMAZEMENT, THEY CAUGHT A HUGE QUANTITY OF FISH.

\*\* AND NOTHING IN THEIR EXPERIENCE COULD HAVE PREPARED THEM FOR SUCH AN UNHEARD OF CATCH IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DAY.

\*\*\* BUT THE ALL-KNOWING JESUS KNEW EXACTLY WHERE THE FISH WERE. AND POSSIBLY AS THEIR CREATOR IN HIS POWER, DIRECTED THE FISH INTO THEIR NETS.

\*\*\*\* AND THE HAUL OF FISH WOULD BE SO GREAT, THEIR NETS ARE STRETCHING OUT, COMING CLOSE TO THE BREAKING POINT.

1. IT WAS THE CATCH OF A LIFETIME. I MEAN YOU TALK ABOUT A FISH STORY, THIS ONE TOPS THEM ALL, AND IT WAS TRUE. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 7. NOW FRANTICALLY PETER AND HIS CREW SIGNALLED TO THEIR PARTNERS IN THE OTHER BOAT, JAMES AND JOHN AND THEIR CREW, PARTNERS OF PETER ACCORDING TO V. 10 THEY SIGNAL THEM FOR HELP.

\* AND HURRYING TO HELP, THEY GET THERE AND BOTH BOATS ARE SO FILLED, THEY BEGIN TO SINK, THEY COULD BARELY FLOAT, THE WATER WAS CLOSE TO POURING INTO THE BOAT WAS SO HEAVY.



\*\* NOW AGAIN, THESE ARE NOT SMALL LITTLE BOATS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EACH BOAT COULD HOLD A TON, 2,000 LBS. OF FISH.

\*\*\* AND THIS WAS A MIRACLE, A RAW **OUTPOURING OF JESUS' POWER, A MASSIVE** MIRACLE BY THE CREATOR OF FISH.

\*\*\*\* AND YOU WOULD THINK, PETER WOULD BE EXCITED ABOUT HIS BIGGEST CATCH EVER, THAT HE WOULD BE THINKING, CHA CHING, WE MADE BIG BUCKS TODAY BY THIS HAUL.

**1. BUT THAT'S NOT PETER'S RESPONSE, LOOK** AT. V8 PLEASE, AS PETER RECOGNIZES FOR THE FIRST TIME WHO JESUS IS. OUR LAST POINT TODAY IS THE RECOGNITION.

#### IV. THE RECOGNITION, (READ V. 8)

A. NOW RATHER THAN A FIST PUMP HERE, A CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS, A VICTORIOUS YES, QUITE THE CONTRARY HAPPENS.

\* FOR WHEN PETER SEES ALL OF THIS, HE HITS HIS KNEES, **HE FALLS DOWN AT JESUS' FEET** AND COMES TO THE REALIZATION THAT JESUS IS GOD!

\*\* FOR HE SEES HIMSELF IN A BOAT WITH GOD, AND WHEN YOU SEE GOD BY SOVEREIGN GRACE FOR WHO HE IS AS THE HOLY ONE, YOU SEE YOUR SIN IN A NEW LIGHT AND IT IS HUMBLING, YOU ARE UNDONE, YOU REPENT.

\*\*\* BELOVED, PETER SEES JESUS AS THE OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT GOD OF THE UNIVERSE, HE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH HOLY GOD AND HE PROSTRATES HIMSELF BEFORE HIM AND SAY IN RESPECT, LEAVE, GO AWAY, I AM A SINFUL MAN.

\*\*\*\* AND NOTE HERE, PETER NO LONGER USED THE RESPECTFUL TERM MASTER AS HE DID IN V. 5, HE USES THE WORD LORD, KURIOS WHICH MEANS GOD, MASTER, THE SOVEREIGN ONE. HE IS NOW BOWING TO JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR. PETER WAS BROUGHT TO REPENTANT FAITH.

1. AND PLEASE UNDERSTAND THIS, PETER SAW HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW AND OTHERS HEALED BY JESUS, HE HEARD JESUS PREACH AND TEACH, BUT THIS MIRACLE BROUGHT IT ALL TOGETHER AND REACHED DIRECTLY INTO HIS LIFE AND GRABBED HIM.

\* BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THIS WAS A SPONTANEOUS ACT OF HUMBLE REPENTANCE **THROUGH GOD'S SOVEREIGN WORK OF GRACE IN HIS HEART.** THIS IS CONVERSION. PETER SEES HIS SIN AND REALIZES HE WAS SO UNWORTHY THAT HE WAS NOT EVEN FIT TO RIDE IN THE SAME BOAT WITH JESUS.

\*\* PETER UNDERSTOOD HE WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF SOMEONE PERFECTLY HOLY, AND THAT BY CONTRAST, HE HIMSELF WAS TOTALLY DEPRAVED, SO HE FELL DOWN AND CONFESSED THE SIN OF HIS ENTIRE NATURE. THIS IS FULL REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

\*\*\* IT IS SEEING OURSELVES AS UNWORTHY IN **CONTRAST TO CHRIST'S HOLINESS AND GREATNESS**. AND ALTHOUGH WE WANT TO RUN AWAY FROM JESUS, OUR NEED IS TO RUN TO HIM, FOR HE ONLY CAN FORGIVE US OF OUR SINS. HE IS OUR ARK OF SAFETY, OUR SAVIOR, OUR LORD, OUR DELIVERER.

\*\*\*\* AND WE SHOULD BE AMAZED BY WHAT THE LORD DOES IN SAVING SINNERS LIKE US, AND WE SHOULD BE AWESTRUCK AT HIS POWER TO DO WHAT HE DOES. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 9. NOW THE AMAZEMENT AND THE ASTONISHMENT, THE WONDER THAT HAD SEIZED PETER WAS SHARED BY ALL THE PEOPLE WITH HIM IN BOTH BOATS, AS THEY WERE OVERWHELMED BY THE POWER OF JESUS, WHICH RESULTED IN THIS HUGE CATCH OF FISH.

**\* CHRIST'S OMNISCIENCE AND OMNIPOTENCE** WERE ON DISPLAY. WHAT HAPPENED WAS AMAZING, THERE WAS NO OTHER EXPLANATION BUT THAT THIS GREAT CATCH OF FISH WAS A GOD THING.

**\*\* AND TWO OF CHRIST'S FUTURE APOSTLES,** JAMES AND JOHN, TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE INNER CIRCLE BEYOND PETER WITNESSED THIS. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

C. READ V . 10. NOW HERE THE PARTNERS OF PETER AND ANDREW, I MIGHT ADD IN THEIR FISHING BUSINESS, ARE IDENTIFIED, JAMES AND JOHN THE SONS OF ZEBEDEE.

\* BUT SOMETHING ELSE IS REVEALED HERE TO PETER AS OUR LORD SPEAKS TO HIM AND SAID, **“DO NOT FEAR SIMON (PETER) FROM NOW ON YOU WILL BE CATCHING MEN.”**

\*\* AND THE TRUTH IS, IN THE TERROR OF THE RECOGNITION OF HIS SINFULNESS, PETER WANTED TO SEND THE LORD AWAY, BUT JESUS WOULD DRAW HIM NEAR, SHOWING THAT AT THE VERY POINT AT WHICH THE SINNER FEELS THE MOST ALIENATION IS THE POINT AT WHICH JESUS BRINGS RECONCILIATION.

\*\*\* THERE WAS NO NEED TO FEAR NOW, JESUS ACCOMPLISHED HIS SOVEREIGN PURPOSE AND NOW PETER **WOULD MAKE CHRIST'S PURPOSE,** HIS PURPOSE, HE WOULD NOW CATCH MEN, RATHER THAN FISH.

\*\*\*\* FROM THIS TIME FORTH, PETER WOULD BE AN EVANGELIST AND HAVE A NEW VOCATION, TO FISH FOR MEN.

1. AND THE VERB CATCH LIT. MEANS IN THE GREEK "TO CATCH ALIVE" WHICH CONVEYS THE IDEA OF RESCUE FROM DANGER.

\* AND THIS IS NOT WHAT FISHERMEN NORMALLY DO, THEY CATCH TO EAT, THEY CATCH TO SELL, THEY CATCH NOT TO SAVE FISH, BUT KILL THEM.

\*\* BUT JESUS WAS CALLING PETER TO BE A NEW KIND OF FISHERMAN, ONE WHO RESCUED PEOPLE FROM THE DEEP SEA OF THEIR SIN AND BRING THEM SAFELY TO THE SHORE OF SALVATION.

\*\*\* WHAT COULD BE CALLED CATCH AND **RELEASE TODAY BECAUSE "PEOPLE WHO GET CAUGHT BY THE GOSPEL" ACCORDING TO PHILIP RYKEN "ARE RELEASED FROM THEIR SINS."**

\*\*\*\* AND PETER WOULD BE USED EARLY IN THE BOOK OF ACTS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL WHICH CAUGHT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FOR CHRIST. PETER WOULD BE CATCHING MEN. SO PETER IS SAVED TO CATCH PEOPLE ALIVE. BUT ALSO PETER WILL BE CALLED TO DO THIS VOCATIONALLY AS AN APOSTLE WE WILL SEE.

2. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 11. NOW NOTICE WHEN THEY, **PETER, JAMES, JOHN AND ANDREW PETER'S BROTHER,** WHOM ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED PETER TO JESUS IN JOHN 1, WHEN THEY TAKE THEIR BOATS TO LAND, THEY LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED JESUS.

\* I MEAN AT THE VERY PINNACLE OF THEIR CAREERS, AT THE HIGHEST POINT OF THEIR VOCATION, THEY LEFT ALL, THEIR BOATS, THEIR NETS, THEIR LIVELIHOOD, THEIR BIGGEST CATCH EVER TO FOLLOW JESUS. AND THESE MEN WOULD BECOME APOSTLES, AS WE WILL SEE IN LUKE 6.



\*\* THEIR LAST DAY IN BUSINESS WAS THEIR BEST DAY OF BUSINESS, AND **PETER'S BEST DAY** OF HIS LIFE WAS THIS DAY, FOR HE SAW WHO JESUS WAS AND BOWED THE KNEE TO HIS LORDSHIP, AND NOW WOULD CATCH MEN ALIVE FOR JESUS, LEAVING ALL TO FOLLOW HIM.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) EVANGELISM IN SOME WAYS IS LIKE FISHING. FOR A FISHERMAN NEVER KNOWS WHAT HE IS GOING TO CATCH.

\* THE CATCH IS UP TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD BUT IF A FISHERMAN REFUSES TO DRAG HIS NET, HE WILL NEVER CATCH ANYTHING AT ALL.

\*\* THE SAME IS TRUE IN BIBLICAL EVANGELISM, WE ARE CALLED TO CAST A WIDE NET BY CALLING PEOPLE TO JESUS CHRIST THROUGH HIS GOSPEL.

\*\*\* AND AS WE DO THAT, WE TRUST IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD. WILL WE CATCH ANYTHING? WELL, NOT ALWAYS, AND NEVER BY OUR OWN ABILITIES, BUT THROUGH GOD'S SAVING POWER IN THE GOSPEL.

\*\*\*\* BUT, WE SHOULD NEVER STOP FISHING. WE MUST KEEP CASTING THE NET, AS WE SOW THE SEED OF THE WORD, WATER IT WITH OUR PRAYERS GOD ALONE CAN MAKE IT GROW AND GIVE THE INCREASE AND SAVE PEOPLE.

(2) BELOVED, PHILIP RYKEN SAID AND I QUOTE: **"WHAT GOD DOES WITH OUR WITNESS IS HIS BUSINESS, BUT OUR BUSINESS IS TO FISH FOR MEN."** (END QUOTE)

**\* MAY WE BE ABOUT OUR FATHER'S BUSINESS!**

\*\* NO. 2 IN APPLICATION, HAS JESUS CHRIST EVER ASKED YOU TO GO OUT INTO DEEP WATERS AND DO **SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T** MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU?

\*\*\* HE DID WITH PETER. BUT WHAT IS THE KEY?

\*\*\*\* THE ANSWER IS DO WHAT JESUS TELLS YOU **TO DO. IT DIDN'T MAKE SENSE FOR PETER TO** DO WHAT JESUS TOLD HIM TO DO, BUT WHEN IN OBEDIENCE HE DID IT, GOD DID SOMETHING GREAT.

(3) AND THE SIMPLE APPLICATION IS, DO WHAT JESUS TELLS YOU TO DO, AND WHAT HE TELLS US TO DO TODAY IS IN HIS WORD, SO DO IT. TRUST AND OBEY.

\* KNOW THAT GOD IN HIS WORD DOES NOT ASK YOU TO DO ANYTHING IN HIS WILL, THAT WILL NOT BE FOR OUR GOOD AND HIS GLORY. AND WHEN WE GO OUT INTO DEEP WATERS, TRUST **AND OBEY. GOD'S WILL IS ALWAYS BEST, EVEN IF IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. DO WHAT JESUS** TELL YOU TO DO.

\*\* AND THEN LAST OF ALL TODAY, THOSE WHO SEE THEIR SINFUL UNWORTHINESS AND TURN AND EMBRACE JESUS AS THEIR LORD AND SAVIOR, AS THE ALL-KNOWING, ALL-POWERFUL, HOLY AND MERCIFUL GOD, ARE THE ONES HE RECONCILES TO HIMSELF AND SAVES. HE FORGIVES THEIR SINS, TAKES AWAY THEIR FEAR OF JUDGMENT THAT SIN CAUSES AND THEN COMMISSIONS THEM TO THE GREAT WORK OF EVANGELIZATION, OF CATCHING MEN AND WOMEN ALIVE FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

**\*\*\* IF YOU DON'T TRULY KNOW JESUS AS YOUR LORD TODAY, BOW THE KNEE AND TURN TO HIM FOR SALVATION. (LET'S PRAY)**