

Gone Fishing: Sunday April 28, 2024

1. Introduction

2. Pretext: Mark 1:16-20, Matthew 4:18-22

Mark 1:16, Matthew 4:18

Jesus is walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee (aka. Lake Gennesaret)

These men are busy at their trade. Simon (Peter) and his brother Andrew. Casting their net in the sea. Fishermen.

Mark 1:17, Matthew 4:19

Follow me! I will make you fishers of men.

Mark 1:18, Matthew 4:20

Immediately they dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

Mark 1:19-20, Matthew 4:21-22

They meet James and John (the beloved) and their Father Zebedee. Again busy at their trade (fishermen). Mending their nets. Jesus calls. They drop their nets and follow. Leaving their father and hired servants behind.

Three of these two pairs of brothers (Andrew and Peter, John and James) had already become disciples of Jesus at Bethany beyond Jordan (James probably soon afterwards), but now they leave their prosperous fish business and follow Jesus. They, along with Philip and Nathaniel, had been with Jesus in the early ministry (the year of obscurity).

3. Main Text

Luke 5:1-11

V1. The crowd is pressing around Him. Hearing the Word of God. Standing on the edge of the lake.

Word of God. This is the first appearance of the expression in the Gospel

“Pressing upon him, listening to God’s word.” The preacher is commanded to proclaim God’s word; the audience must listen eagerly.

V2. Jesus sees fishermen washing their nets.

V3. Jesus got into Simon Peters boat and asked him to push out from the land. Jesus sat down and began teaching from the boat.

Many times Jesus preached or taught at the regular synagogue service and in Judea also in the temple. But he did not limit himself to synagogue and temple. Sometimes he chose a convenient spot on a mountain, a house, the desert, even a cemetery. In the present instance speaking while seated in a fisherman’s boat meant not only a more comfortable position but also a better view of the audience and even better acoustics.

Notice Jesus gets the disciples involved in the ministry!

That message was “the gospel of the kingdom,” the reign of God in hearts, lives, and spheres of this age.

V4. After he had finished speaking He said to Simon. Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.

“Launch out,” figuratively speaking, by means of bearing witness by word of mouth, giving moral and financial support, being a living example.

V5. Master, we have labored all night and caught nothing, but at Your Word I will let down the nets.

Luke avoids the term Rabbi using Master instead.

“At your word I’ll let down the nets.” This is another way of saying, “I’ll trust and obey.” What a multitude of excuses we can offer to show why the business of spreading the gospel net should be left to others! These excuses will never convince God ... or our conscience.

Isaiah 55:7-9

V6. They enclosed a great quantity of fish. Their nets began to break.

And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. **(John 12:32)**

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. “So it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and take out the wicked from among the righteous, and will throw them into the fiery furnace; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

(Matthew 13:47-50)

And my God will fulfill all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **(Philippians 4:19)**

V7. They called for backup and filled both boats. Thee boat began to sink.

“They signaled their comrades ... to come and help them.” In unity there is strength. We must labor together! **Philippians 2:1-3**

V8. When Simon saw. He fell down at Jesus knees and said, Go away from me Lord for I am a sinful man!

The Bible gives us countless examples that in the presence of the holy God sinful man trembles. Abraham, Manoah and his wife, Job, Isaiah, the apostle John.

Even to groups: Israel, the nations.

~ Peter does not feel worthy of Jesus' blessing or of making such an acquaintance.

~ What Peter does not realize is that admitting one's inability and sin is the best prerequisite for service, since then one can depend on God. Peter's confession becomes his résumé for service.

V9. Amazement had seized him and all his companions (James and John) because of the catch of fish.

Do not lose the wonder!

V10. James and John were also amazed. Jesus replies to Simon, Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.

Jesus issues a call to Peter to enter into the process of gathering people and rescuing the perishing from the danger of a fallen world, Satan and themselves. Fish are caught to be scaled, gutted, and devoured. Peter will catch people and bring them into life. Boats and nets will no longer be his tools; instead, He will use God's Word

The miraculous catch indicates how miracles are pictures or metaphors of spiritual realities. The miraculous catch of fish produces the metaphorical call to catch people. Jesus' prophetic leading and insight powerfully illustrate his call, indicating graphically the mission Peter and the disciples as well as all followers of Jesus.

V.11 They brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Jesus.

When one is confronted with Jesus, it is impossible to remain neutral. His enemies react to his miracles with hatred and reviling; his true disciples, with homage and reverence.

Jesus changes people's priorities.

What are you doing with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Matthew 11:27-29

Acts 20:32-35