

## All In (Luke 5:1-11)

### 1. A disciple of Jesus Christ obeys the word of God (v.1-5)

- While Luke does not inform us of the exact timing of Jesus' callings of His first disciples, it is exegetically reasonable to conclude that it is a separate incident from the supposed "parallel" synoptic accounts (Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20).

#### Options:

- A. This is Jesus' first interaction with Simon, Andrew (not mentioned in Luke's account), James, and John while engaging in their fishing trade (while Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11 are the same, Luke provides additional details).
- B. The disciples (Andrew, John, James, Philip, Nathaniel, and Simon) followed Jesus in a limited manner before this account:
  - Jesus' interaction with Andrew and John occurred when John the Baptist cried out Jesus' credentials as the Lamb of God (John 1:35-42).
  - Matt. 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16:20 describe a previous interaction with Jesus as they followed him to a limited degree (still fishing). Luke 5:1-11 would be another recorded interaction with Jesus and His disciples, as they "left *everything* and followed Him."
  - After the first call (Matt. 4:18-22 and Mark 1:16:20), they would have been present with Jesus in the synagogue (Luke 4:31-35) and witnessed Jesus' authority over the demon-possessed man.
  - Following the synagogue service, Jesus went to Simon's house with Simon, Andrew, James, and John (Mark 1:29).

Main Point: Jesus has already interacted with these men in varying capacities over a long period (months). Some, if not all, witnessed Jesus: turn water into wine (John 2:1-12), cleanse the temple (John 2:13-22), liberate the demon-possessed man in Capernaum, healing of Simon's mother-in-law from the fever, and most likely the healings of all by Jesus who were sick (Lk. 1:31-41). However, they have not unconditionally followed him, as four of them were still engaged in their fishing trade.

Jesus is teaching and preaching in Capernaum one day (v.1), and the crowds were so engaged that they pressed Jesus against the banks of the Sea of Galilee (Lake Gennesaret/ "the lake").

Simon, (Andrew?), James, and John had fished all night without catching any fish. They returned to shore with their boats as Jesus was teaching the crowds, and Jesus used Peter's boat as a "floating pulpit."

As Jesus is teaching the crowds in Simon's boat, Simon would be cleaning, mending, and repairing his nets in the shallow end of the shore or on the bank of the lake.

Simon's interaction with Jesus is very natural:

- Jesus, as a carpenter by trade, is directing Simon, a fisherman by trade, to go back out to fish when fish were least active, following an "all-nighter" of catching no fish.
- Simon obeys, calls him "Master," and says, "at your word."

Why is Simon returning to fish at the worst time of the day?

### 2. A disciple of Jesus Christ is aware of the sin of unbelief and repents of it (v.6-9)

- Whether Jesus summoned the fish from the sea, knew where the fish were at the time of casting their nets, or created them and placed them in the net, we are not informed.
- Jesus is demonstrating that he has not only authority over demons (4:31-37) and disease (4:38-41) but also creation (5:6).
- There were so many fish that the nets were "breaking," as Simon needed additional assistance from the sons of Zebedee (James and John). The weight was so heavy that both boats began to sink (v.6-7).
- Upon returning to the land and seeing the catch, he "fell" at Jesus' feet.
- Simon no longer just called him "Master" (Sir) but "Lord" (v.8). The word "Lord" in the gospel of Luke has been used over 30 times, as each time is about the Lord God. Simon recognizes that the incarnate YHWH is before Him.
- Peter's response to the Lord Jesus Christ is like that of Moses (Ex. 3:5-6), Isaiah (6:5), and John the Baptist (Lk. 3:16) and is parallel to the calling of the office of Isaiah and Ezekiel (Isa. 6; Ez. 1-2).
- Not only did he fall and acknowledge that He was in the very presence of the Lord, but he said, "depart from me, for I am a sinful man." Peter's title to the Lord was correct, but his conclusion was faulty, for God-incarnate, Jesus of Nazareth came to redeem sinners, not cast them away.
- Sin is the prerequisite for forgiveness and redemption. Jesus has come as God-incarnate to bring redemption and reconciliation.
- This is the first time in Luke that the term "sinner" is mentioned. Peter's acknowledgment of his spiritual condition will be the proper response for those who encounter the holiness of God and respond in humility and adoration.
- Why is Peter acknowledging His sin? What sin is he speaking of?
  - The sin of unbelief and half-heartedness in following Jesus.
- Peter's journey in discipleship did not call him away from his initial obedience but challenged him to be bolder in it.
- Jesus invaded Simon's "world" of fishing so He could win Simon's heart.
- Jesus' response to Peter is of tenderness and mercy: "do not be afraid." The incarnate YHWH is pleased to not only welcome any sinner who repents but will also use them in remarkable ways.

### 3. A disciple of Jesus Christ is a fisher of men and women (v.10-11)

- The redeeming redeemer, Jesus, is calling Peter (along with at least James and John and possibly Andrew) to be "all in" and commissions them to be "catchers of men." Jesus is speaking to Peter as the representative of not only all the disciples but all those who call Jesus "Lord."
- This is an etymological pun.
  - As fishermen, they catch fish when alive and then sell them as dead in the market. In prehistory OT and Greek literature, this word also possesses connotations of hunting and war.
  - Instead of fishing for fish, Peter will catch men and women for salvation in the sea of the towns and villages of Galilee and Judea. In catching them, he is releasing them from the bondage of sin, spiritual forces, and any other constraint weighing them down (4:18-19).
- Peter will be casting out his net, not as a fisherman of fish, but as a fisherman of men and women, and will draw the net by being personal, approachable, and approaching.