

§40: THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH

Luke 5:1–11

Jesus Teaches from a Boat

Luke 5:1–3

1 Now it came about while the multitude were pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, and He Himself was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,
2 that He saw two boats lying by the lake;
but the fishermen, having gotten out of them, were washing the nets.
3 But when He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked Him to put out a little from the land.
Now He sat down and was teaching the multitudes from the boat.

Jesus' Instructions; Peter's Response

Luke 5:4–5

4 Now when He finished speaking, He said to Simon:
Put out into the deep-water and let down your nets for a catch.
5 And Simon answered and said:
Master, all night we worked hard and caught nothing;
but at your word I will let down the nets.

Peter Obeys, and Becomes Fearful

Luke 5:6–9

6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish; but their nets were tearing.
7 And they signaled to the partners in the other boat for them to come help them.
And they came and filled both the boats so that they *began* to sink.
8 But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at the knees of Jesus, saying:
Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!
9 For amazement had seized him because of the catch of fish which they had taken,

Fishers of Men

Luke 5:10–11

10 and so also James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners [or, sharers] with Simon.
And Jesus said to Simon: Do not fear; from now on you will be catching [lit. capturing alive] men.
11 And when they brought the boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Notes

- Partners (Sharers) (Lk. 5:7,9).** The word in vs. 7 comes from a root meaning lit. “to have with” (“have a share, participate with”); the synonym in vs. 9 comes from the same root as *koinonia* “fellowship.”
- Catching (Lk 5:10).** This word occurs only 2x in the N.T. The other occurrence is 2 Tim. 2:26: “...and may come to their senses *and* escape from the snare of the devil, having been *held captive* by him to do his will.” In classical Greek the sense of the word normally implies to take captive and save alive instead of killing (also with this sense in the LXX of Num. 31:18; but compare 2 Chron. 25:12).
- They left everything. (Lk. 5:11).** Note that this is the *third* time we read about Simon and Andrew deciding to follow Jesus. The first time is in John 1:35–42; the second time is in Matt. 4:18–22 = Mark 1:16–20.