

THRU BIBLE

Luke 5:1-11 | "Let Jesus In Your Boat"

INTRO: The popularity of the ministry of Jesus is growing. Word is being spread around of the miracles that are being wrought by Him, and now wherever He goes people are beginning to jostle and shove in order that they might get close to Him. It made it difficult for Jesus to travel to get around because of the multitudes that, according to Mark's gospel, at this point they were thronging Him wherever He went.

I. LET JESUS IN YOUR BOAT. (v. 1-11)

JESUS TEACHES FROM THE BOAT (v. 1-3)

A. (v. 1)

1. "...*the lake of Gennesaret,*"

- a. Also called "Sea of Galilee" or "Sea of Tiberius".
 - 1) Don't think of a "sea" as a large salt-water body of water because it's really just a huge Lake.
- b. "*Gennesaret*" in Hebrew is "*Kinnereth*" - from root word which means "*harp*", thus the lake is "*harp-shaped*."

B. (v. 2)

1. "*And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.*"

- a. "*two boats standing by the lake*"
 - 1) The Boat Discovery of 1986.
 - a) In 1986, after a severe drought, and with the lake at a historic low, there was

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discovered virtually a complete hull from a fishing boat – from approximately 2,000 years ago – preserved in the mud. The unique chemistry of the mud had preserved the wood; experts were flown in from all over the world to assist its preservation and it is presently in a special museum north of Ginosar near Tiberius.

- b) It is approximately 27 ft long, 7 ½ ft wide, and apparently characteristic of the vessels on the lake at that time.

2) The Fishing Industry.

- a) Josephus, a Jewish historian, tells us that in his days, there were 330 fishing boats that sailed on the Sea of Galilee! It was a fishing industry!
 - i. We usually think of Simon and Andrew with their little boat, and they throw their line in and fish. But they used big nets to scoop up a bunch of fish at one time.

b. *“washing their nets”*

- 1) While fishing, their nets would get all kinds of fish guts, debris, and junk, as they pull up the nets. Yuck!

C. (v. 3)

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1. ***"And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship."***
 - a. *"which was Simon's"*
 - 1) This is not the first time Jesus had contact with Simon Peter.
 - a) About one year earlier down in Judea, Jesus met Simon and changed his name to "Peter" ([John 1:35-42](#)).
 - b) Peter had gone back fishing and didn't follow Jesus yet. However, probably a few weeks before this event in our Text, Jesus called Simon, while he was fishing, to follow Him, and he immediately forsook his nets and followed Him ([Mark 1:16-20](#)).
 - c) It seems that Peter followed Jesus for a time, but now he has gone back fishing here in our Text.
 - d) Later on, after the Crucifixion, Simon goes back to fishing again, but for the last time ([John 21:2-22](#)).
 - i. **NOTE:** Sometimes we go back to the old life, yet Jesus will keep calling us to follow Him.
 - 2) Fishing was Simon Peter's Livelihood and Career.
 - a) I'm sure he enjoyed fishing.
 - b) It is what he knew.

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- c) He invested his life in fishing.
- 3) At this time, Jesus steps into Simon Peter's Boat!
 - a) He enters into Peter's workplace.
 - b) He invites Himself into Peter's career.
- 4) **Q** = When did Jesus step into his boat?... While he was "*washing their nets*"!! (v. 2)
 - a) Jesus enters into the mundane.
 - b) He gets into Peter's routine.
 - c) He steps into his livelihood and shakes things up.
- 5) **Q** = Why did Jesus step into the boat?... "*And He sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.*"
 - a) **KEY:** Jesus steps into Peter's boat so that He can preach a message!
- 6) **Q** = Will you let Jesus into your boat? Is He allowed to interrupt your career? Can Jesus enter into the mundane parts of your life?...
 - a) Jesus wants to speak to the multitudes through your mundane and routine areas of your life.
 - b) For some, Jesus wants to alter their career plans, as we'll see with Simon Peter (v. 10-11).
 - i. **KEY:** Throughout history, Jesus has chosen to work through people, not independant of people!

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D. (v. 4)

1. **"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught."**

a. *"He said unto Simon"*

- 1) **NOTE:** Luke, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote his old name "*Simon*," instead of the name that Jesus gave him, "*Peter*" ([John 1:35-42](#)).
- 2) **KEY:** Jesus already gave him a NEW IDENTITY, and a NEW COMMISSION in ministry, but Peter has gone back to the old ways and his old career! Yet, Jesus still reaches out to him again!

b. *"Launch out into the deep"*

- 1) Because of the heat of the day, the fish typically go down into the deeper waters, but they come up to the surface at night, thus the fishermen would fish at night.

c. *"let down your nets for a draught"*

- 1) *"draught"* - Gr. *agra* - *"catch; haul (of fish)"*
 - a) Our English word *draught* goes back to Middle English and is related to Old English *dragan*, meaning *"to pull, draw, or drag"*.¹

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/using-draft-and-draught>

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- 2) In other words, Jesus is predicting what the result will be for Simon! He will *catch* fish and he will have to *haul* them into the ship!

E. (v. 5)

1. **"And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net."**

a. "Master" - Gr. *epistates* - "Commander; Captain"

1) Jesus has COMMANDEERED THE SHIP, and Simon recognizes that authority!

a) **KEY:** Jesus is either Lord of all, or He is not Lord at all in your life!

b. "we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing"

1) "toiled" - Gr. "labored to the point of exhaustion"

2) This has to be a little embarrassing for a Professional Fisherman!

a) He is an Expert in his field.

b) This has been his career.

c) He knows the ins and outs of the fishing industry.

3) **NOTE:** I'm sure Peter was a great fisherman and caught fish since he had a fishing business, but I find it so interesting that in the Text, the Holy

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Spirit always shows them not catching anything unless Jesus is around!!

- 4) **KEY:** This shows the folly of trying to continue on in something we are not called to do!
 - a) There are some that Jesus is calling into some form of specific ministry, yet they lay it aside to focus on their career, and then the frustration sets in because they are focused on the wrong thing.
 - 5) **KEY:** Jesus loves us too much to let us succeed in those things that distract us from His calling on our lives!
 - a) **NOTE:** As a Christian, your calling is, first of all, to fulfill your role in the Body of Christ in ministry.
 - i. You might be bi-vocational, meaning that you work a job to pay the bills, but your focus should be on advancing the kingdom of God and building up His Church through your spiritual gifts.
- c. *"nevertheless at Thy word I will let down the net"*
- 1) This moment was pivotal in Peter's life. He had a choice to make.
 - a) He could have said, "I'm the fisherman! We don't go out to the deep during the day! I'll fish, you preach!" But Simon didn't say that!

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- b) **NOTE:** If he didn't choose to obey Jesus here, it would have been totally different from here on out.
- c) **KEY:** If we don't obey Jesus immediately, we might miss out on a miracle (v. 6-7)! We will miss out on an abundant life in following Jesus!

- 2) Simon's response was to obey the word of Jesus.
 - a) This shows that his heart is open to the work of the Holy Spirit in his life.
 - b) He hasn't been perfect in following the Lord, but he has a soft heart that will respond to the call of Jesus again.
 - i. You may have had times in your life where you have gone back to the old ways, or back to the old life, but listen for the voice of Jesus. He is still calling you to a fuller, richer life in following Him, and He is still extending that invitation!

F. (v. 6)

- 1. **"And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."**
 - a. "a great multitude of fishes"
 - 1) There are many different types of fish in the Sea of Galilee:

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- a) Carp, sardines, mullet, catfish, combfish, tilapia (St. Peter’s Fish), etc...
- 2) Those guys had never experienced so much success in their business!
 - a) I’m sure these experienced fishermen never saw it like this!
 - b) You could say that all their *fishes* came true!
- 3) **NOTE:** This is the difference between success and failure: **DIRECTED Service vs. NON-DIRECTED Service.**
 - a) Here we find men laboring all night with no results. Now suddenly Jesus directs them to labor in the same area, and they have phenomenal results.
 - b) This marks the contrast that usually exists in those efforts that are on our own, and those efforts that are directed by the Lord.
 - i. There is so much time, energy, and money wasted by man-inspired efforts.
 - a. We develop our...
 - i. Programs.

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- ii. The financing in order that we might fund the programs.
 - iii. Committees to implement the program.
- 4) **KEY:** When the Lord is directing you, the results are far better than anything we can conjure up.
 - a) **"If you strive to gain, you have to strive to maintain."**

G. (v. 7)

1. ***"And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink."***
 - a. Because Peter obeyed the voice of the Lord, the result was so incredible that he needed to call in reinforcements!

H. (v. 8)

1. ***"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."***
 - a. *"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord"*
 - 1) When Peter saw the results of the work of Jesus, and became aware of who Jesus was, he saw himself in the true light.

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- 2) Whenever someone is truly conscious of God, they see themselves in His light, and that is always a humbling experience.
 - a) Cf. **Job 42:5-6** - Job said, *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*
 - b) Cf. **Isaiah 6:1, 5** - Isaiah said, *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple... Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."*
 - c) Cf. **Romans 7:24** - When Paul saw that he could not really serve God in his flesh, he cried out and said, *"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"*
 - d) Cf. **Revelation 1:17** - The Apostle John, after seeing Jesus in His glorified state, wrote, *"And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last."*
- 3) **KEY:** No man or woman who has stood in the presence of God can be proud. Standing in, or being conscious of, the presence of the Lord is always a very humbling experience.

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I. (v. 9)

1. "For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:"

a. Lit. "Amazement laid hold on him"

1) "astonished" - Gr. "amazement; wonder; awe; surprise"

2) "was" - Gr. "laid hold; seized"

J. (v. 10)

1. "And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon..."

a. "partners" - Gr. *koinónos* - "sharers; companions; associates"

1) Simon, and his brother Andrew, were BUSINESS PARTNERS with James and John.

2. "...And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men."

a. "catch" - Gr. lit. "catch alive"

1) Jesus is telling him, "You will catch men alive!"

a) At Jesus' last invitation to Simon, He said, "Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men," (Mark 1:17) yet now He's telling Peter that he won't just *fish* for men, but *catch* men!!

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- 2) **NOTE:** There is a difference between FISHING and CATCHING!
 - a) Peter would *catch* a great number of men in his life:
 - i. 3,000 people on the day of Pentecost ([Acts 2:41](#)).
 - ii. 2,000 people as a result of the lame man being healed ([Acts 4:4](#)).
 - iii. He caught the whole towns of Lydda and Saron ([Acts 9:32-35](#)).
 - iv. After raising Tabitha from the dead, we read, "*And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.*" ([Acts 9:42](#))
 - v. While preaching to Cornelius and his household, we read, "*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word*" ([Acts 10:44](#)), and this opened the door to the Gentiles to receive the Gospel!
- 3) **Q** = In order for Peter to catch men, what is he going to have to do?... "*Let down your nets for a draught*"! ([v. 4](#))
- 4) **Q** = How do we *catch* people for the Lord?... By casting the nets!
- 5) **Q** = What's the *net* that we cast?... The Gospel message!

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- a) Cf. **Romans 10:13-17** - *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
- b) **KEY:** Too many people say that they try to live their life as a witness (which I agree with), but usually that's a copout! We need to actually let out the net through our lips!!
 - i. If we don't VERBALLY share the gospel with somebody, how are they going to get saved?!
- c) Sadly, I think we often times are just one cast short of catching men alive! We need to keep casting the net!

K. (v. 11)

1. **"And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him."**

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- a. **NOTE:** Just when they were beginning to have phenomenal success in their business, Jesus called them to leave it all behind and follow Him.
- b. **Q** = If Jesus were to call you out of your career, would you forsake it all to follow Him?...
- c. **Q** = Are you willing to let Jesus in your boat?...