

Luke 5:1-11

¹ Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; ² and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the people from the boat. ⁴ When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets." ⁶ When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to break; ⁷ so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; ¹⁰ and so also *were* James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

1. Observations from the Text:

- a. Jesus continues his ministry in Galilee.
 - i. Jesus has attracted a crowd of followers because of his message and his authority.
- b. Jesus teaches from Simon's boat.
 - i. Simon had been following Christ for some time and was working nearby.
- c. After the lesson Jesus asks Simon to go out and put down the nets.
 - i. Simon is hesitant but obeys Christ.
 - ii. Immediately they catch an unbelievable amount of fish.
- d. Simon becomes overwhelmed and throws himself at the feet of Jesus.
 - i. Simon acknowledges his sinfulness in contrast to Jesus.
- e. Jesus responds lovingly and calls Simon, James and John to be his disciples.
 - i. Jesus explains from the beginning that they will be evangelistic.

2. Interpretation of the Text:

- a. Simon had been a half-hearted follower of Christ up till this point.
 - i. Simon is introduced to Jesus shortly after Jesus' baptism by his brother Andrew.
 1. It is at this point that Simon is renamed by Christ.

a. John 1:40-42

- ii. Simon was probably present for the deliverance of the demoniac in the synagogue and he was present for several healings.

1. Luke 4:31-44

- b. This Simon's first recorded responses to Christ and his message.
 - i. Simon refers to him as "Master" indicating that he probably respected Christ and his message.
 - ii. When Simon sees the catch of fish, he falls at the feet of Christ and declares his wickedness.
- c. Why does Simon react so vividly to this miracle?
 - i. This miracle was personal and aimed at Peter.
 - 1. Jesus performs this miracle only for these fishermen.
 - 2. Jesus strikes at the heart of their area of expertise to show his authority.
 - ii. Most of all, this miracle finally reveals to Peter the holiness of Christ.

3. The Holiness of God.

- a. God is called Holy, Holy, Holy. This is the only attribute repeated three times.

i. Revelation 4:8

- b. Holy defined : Set apart, different, unique, alien.
 - i. God is different from you.
 - ii. God's holiness is the core concept of His being.

1. Exodus 33:18-23

2. 2 Samuel 6:1-8

- c. Peter feared God because he saw God's Holiness in contrast to his own wickedness.

4. Conclusions

- a. No one comes to salvation unless they see the Holiness of God.
- b. We have no fear of God because we don't understand the Holiness of God.
- c. Only through being humbled and broken before a Holy God can we be saved.
- d. We must repent from our small idolatrous views of God.

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