

The Gospel of Luke

Leaving Everything to Follow Jesus

Luke 5:1-11

Suggested Memory Verse: Matthew 11:28-30

1. The Teacher and the Masses (vs.1-3)

Jesus popularity has increased throughout Judea during His ministry for the past several months. Already it was not uncommon for people to flock to Him (cf. Luke 4:40ff), and soon the crowds would become so massive that Jesus could no longer publically enter any city (cf. Mark 1:45).

2. The Teacher Gives Fishing Instructions to Fishermen (vs.4)

- A. The Fishermen: Jesus had known Peter and Andrew, as well as James and John, for quite some time because all 12 Apostles had been present with Jesus beginning from the time of His baptism (cf. John 1:35-51; Acts 1:21-22).
- B. The Command: The livelihood of these men depended upon knowing how, where, and when to fish, and even they came up empty-handed at times. Jesus' instructions were contrary to what they knew about fishing.

3. The Fishermen Respond to the Teacher (vs.5-7)

- A. The Obedience: Peter obeyed in the face of an arsenal of quality reasons for objecting Jesus' instructions. Prior to obeying Jesus, He addresses Him as one who has authority to give such a command.
- B. The Result: The fishermen catch such an unexpected quantity of fish that both boats begin to sink. This was very likely the largest catch anyone present had witnessed.

4. The Fishermen React to the Teacher (vs.8-10a)

- A. The Abasement: Like those who had seen the power and glory of God manifested before him, Peter responds by confessing his own sinfulness and unworthiness (Ex 20:18-19; Isa 6:5).
- B. The Amazement: Peter took the lead in his reacting to Jesus, but he was not alone; all of the other fishermen were dumbfounded by the catch of fish.

5. The Teacher Commissions the Fishermen (vs.10b-11)

Jesus indicates that Peter's future was not as a fisherman. While both sets of brothers had followed Jesus' ministry for over a year, it is at this time that they leave all that they had behind in order to follow Jesus completely (cf. Matt 4:19, Mk 1:17)