

Exegetical Notes, Luke 5:1-11

“Fishers of Men”

Prepared by Charles H. Jensen, Pastor, Cornerstone Fellowship
101 Kylies Road, Coatesville, PA 19329
610-384-1375
charleshjensen@aol.com

Luke 5:1-11

Verse 1-3

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

- One morning Jesus was teaching beside Lake Gennesaret, the Sea of Galilee. As the crowd was pushing close, he got into a fishing boat that belonged to Simon Peter who, as yet, was not Jesus' disciple. Although the two were already acquainted (see Mark 4:38) Jesus asked Simon to pull out a little distance from the shore so that there was space between him and the people. He continued to teach the crowd from Peter's boat.

Verse 4-5

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

- After the sermon was finished, Jesus wanted Simon to go fishing. But Simon was reluctant. He and his partners had been fishing all night. They were tired. Night time was the right time to go fishing on Lake Gennesaret. It was unlikely that they would catch anything in daylight. They had not caught anything all night long. Jesus was a carpenter by trade not a fisherman. But just the day before Jesus had miraculously healed Peter's mother-in-law from a fever (see Mark

4:38-39), so Peter did as Jesus requested. He pulled into deeper water and let down his nets.

Verse 6-7

When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

- The catch was too large for one boat to handle. Both of Simon's boats were filled so full that they were sinking from the weight of the catch.

Verse 8-10a

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

- The events of that day, coupled with the events of the preceding day, overwhelmed Peter. He realized that Jesus was the Messiah and that he was unworthy to be with Jesus because of his sin.
- Peter's partners, James and John, were also astonished by the miracle of the catch.

Verse 10b-11

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

- From that day on, because they had tasted the goodness which is in Jesus and knew him to be Israel's Messiah, Peter, James, and John became his disciples. They put everything else behind them to follow Jesus.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Fishers of Men*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)