



## Lesson 18 – The Call by the Sea

Based on Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

1) Where does our lesson begin today?

**Luke 5:1-2** And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the \_\_\_\_\_ were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

Day was breaking over the Sea of Galilee. The disciples, weary with a night of fruitless toil, were still in their fishing boats on the lake. Jesus had come to spend a quiet hour by the waterside. In the early morning, He hoped for a little season of rest from the multitude that followed Him day after day. But soon the people began to gather about Him. Their numbers rapidly increased, so that He was pressed upon all sides. Meanwhile the disciples had come to land.

2) What did Jesus do?

**Luke 5:3** 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 \_\_\_\_\_ the people out of the ship.

Every moment added to the multitude upon the shore. Aged men leaning upon their staffs, hardy peasants from the hills, fishermen from their toil on the lake, merchants and rabbis, the rich and learned, old and young, bringing their sick and suffering ones, pressed to hear the words of the divine Teacher.

3) What prophecy was fulfilled and was quoted by Jesus?

**Isaiah 9:2** The people that walked in darkness have seen a great \_\_\_\_\_: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Beside the throng on the shores of Gennesaret, Jesus in His sermon by the sea had other audiences before His mind. Looking down the ages, He saw His faithful ones in prison and judgment hall, in temptation and loneliness and affliction. Every scene of joy and conflict and perplexity was open before Him. In the words spoken to those gathered about Him, He was speaking also to these other souls the very words that would come to them as a message of hope in trial, of comfort in sorrow, and heavenly light in darkness. Through the Holy Spirit, that voice which was speaking from the fisherman's boat on the Sea of Galilee, would be heard speaking peace to human hearts to the close of time.

4) What crazy thing did Jesus ask His disciples to do?

**Luke 5:4** Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your \_\_\_\_\_ for a draught.

5) How did Peter reply?

**Luke 5:5** And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy \_\_\_\_\_ I will let down the net.

Peter was disheartened. All night he had taken nothing. During the lonely hours he had thought of the fate of John the Baptist, who was languishing alone in his dungeon. He had thought of the prospect before Jesus and His followers, of the ill success of the mission to Judea, and the malice of the priests and rabbis. Even his own occupation had failed him; and as he watched by the empty nets, the future had seemed dark with discouragement.



6) What happened next?

**Luke 5:6-7** And when they had this done, they inclosed a great \_\_\_\_\_ of fishes: and their net brake. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

Night was the only favorable time for fishing with nets in the clear waters of the lake. After toiling all night without success, it seemed hopeless to cast the net by day; but Jesus had given the command, and love for their Master moved the disciples to obey. Simon and his brother together let down the net. As they attempted to draw it in, so great was the quantity of fish enclosed that it began to break. They were obliged to summon James and John to their aid. When the catch was secured, both the boats were so heavily laden that they were in danger of sinking.

7) What does Scripture record next?

**Luke 5:8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, \_\_\_\_\_ from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

8) Why?

**Luke 5:9** For he was \_\_\_\_\_, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

This miracle, above any other he had ever witnessed, was to him a manifestation of divine power. In Jesus he saw One who held all nature under His control. The presence of divinity revealed his own unholiness. Love for his Master, shame for his own unbelief, gratitude for the condescension of Christ, above all, the sense of his uncleanness in the presence of infinite purity, overwhelmed him.

9) How did Daniel feel after seeing Jesus in a vision?

**Daniel 10:8** Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no \_\_\_\_\_ in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.

10) What did Isaiah exclaim as he saw the Lord of Hosts in vision?

**Isaiah 6:5** Then said I, Woe is me! for I am \_\_\_\_\_; 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.

Thus, it has been with all who have been granted a view of God's greatness and majesty.

11) What did Jesus tell Peter as the others returned to shore?

**Luke 5:10** And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ men.

12) How did Matthew record this?

**Matthew 4:19** And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you \_\_\_\_\_ of men.

Peter clung to the feet of Jesus, feeling that he could not be parted from Him. It was after Isaiah had beheld the holiness of God and his own unworthiness that he was entrusted with the divine message. It was after Peter had been led to self-renunciation and dependence upon divine power that he received the call to his work for Christ.



13) What promise is given to those that follow the call?

**Romans 10:12** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is \_\_\_\_\_ unto all that call upon him.

14) What promise is given to those that give to the Lord?

**Luke 6:38** Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and \_\_\_\_\_ over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

Before asking them to leave their nets and fishing boats, Jesus had given them the assurance that God would supply their needs. The use of Peter's boat for the work of the gospel had been richly repaid.

15) How did Paul view God's watchcare?

**Ephesians 3:20-21** Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly \_\_\_\_\_ all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be \_\_\_\_\_ in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

During that sad night on the lake, when they were separated from Christ, the disciples were pressed hard by unbelief, and weary with fruitless toil. But His presence kindled their faith, and brought them joy and success. So it is with us; apart from Christ, our work is fruitless, and it is easy to distrust and murmur. But when He is near, and we labor under His direction, we rejoice in the evidence of His power. It is Satan's work to discourage the soul; it is Christ's work to inspire with faith and hope.

16) How did John the Disciple describe Christ?

**1 John 1:2-4** For the life was \_\_\_\_\_, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard \_\_\_\_\_ we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be \_\_\_\_\_.

**John 1:16** And of his \_\_\_\_\_ have all we received, and grace for grace.

In the apostles of our Lord there was nothing to bring glory to themselves. It was evident that the success of their labors was due only to God. The lives of these men, the characters they developed, and the mighty work that God wrought through them, are a testimony to what He will do for all who are teachable and obedient.

17) What promise did God give us through Malachi?

**Malachi 4:2** But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with \_\_\_\_\_ in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

The Lord Jesus seeks the co-operation of those who will become unobstructed channels for the communication of His grace. The first thing to be learned by all who would become workers together with God is the lesson of self-distrust; then they are prepared to have imparted to them the character of Christ. This is not to be gained through education in the most scientific schools. It is the fruit of wisdom that is obtained from the divine Teacher alone.

18) What did even the officers to the Priests say about Jesus?

**John 7:46** The officers answered, Never man \_\_\_\_\_ like this man.



God takes men as they are, and educates them for His service, if they will yield themselves to Him. The Spirit of God, received into the soul, will quicken all its faculties. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the mind that is devoted unreservedly to God develops harmoniously and is strengthened to comprehend and fulfill the requirements of God. The weak, vacillating character becomes changed to one of strength and steadfastness. Continual devotion establishes so close a relation between Jesus and His disciple that the Christian becomes like Him in mind and character.

*Through a connection with Christ, you will have clearer and broader views. Your discernment will be more penetrative, Your judgment better balanced. You who long to be of service to Christ will be so quickened by the life-giving power of the Sun of Righteousness that you are enabled to bear much fruit to the glory of God.*

He has made  
EVERYTHING  
beautiful  
→→→→→ → ♥♥♥  
IN ITS TIME  
ECCLESIASTES 3:11

***Can you see that you fall short of the mark?***

***Are you comforted to know that God wants to rejuvenate and repair all that was lost?***

***When is the time to let Him?***