

MIRACLES OF JESUS

GONE FISHING - LUKE 5:1-11

- A. Jesus ministered to the people (1-3)
1. His teaching attracted many to Him (1), *On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,*
 - a. Jesus was at the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Gennesaret was the town on the northwest corner.
 - b. The crowd was eagerly wanting to hear the word of God.
 - 1) They were drawn to Jesus because of what He said and what He did.
 - a) Luke 4:32, *and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority.*
 - b) Luke 4:36, *And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!"*
 - 2) They were pressing in on Jesus, trying to get close enough to touch Him, Luke 6:19, *And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came out from him and healed them all.*
 - 3) Jesus was fulfilling His purpose, Luke 4:43, *I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.*
 2. He used Simon Peter's boat as a platform for teaching the crowd (2-3), *and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*
 - a. Jesus got into Simon's boat and asked him to put out from shore a short distance.
 - 1) Possibly, others could not hear Jesus teach because of those pressing so close to Him.
 - 2) The water separated Him for those who were only looking for a miracle and keeping others from hearing Jesus teaching.
 - b. The fishermen were Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John.
 - c. They had spent time with Jesus before this day which will help us understand the story better as it unfolds.

B. Jesus taught Simon the fisherman how to fish (4-11)

 1. Jesus told Simon to go fishing and he reluctantly obeyed (4-5), *And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."*
 - a. Simon Peter caught no fish all night but Jesus told him to fish again.
 - b. Peter was a fisherman by trade who knew how to fish.
 - 1) The time to fish on the Sea of Galilee was at night not during the day.
 - 2) The place to fish was not in the deep.
 - 3) Michael Wilcock, *...people will listen to Jesus, will consider what He says, and will even ask Him to 'make them better' when they are sick; but for Him ...to interfere in their job, their home, their leisure, that is another thing altogether.*
 - c. Peter agreed to obey because it was Jesus Who gave the command.
 - 1) He had heard Jesus' teaching with authority.
 - 2) He had seen Jesus perform miracles.
 - 3) He obeyed Jesus despite reasons why he should not obey.
 - a) Fishermen don't need non-fishermen to teach them how to fish.
 - b) Experience was proof that what Jesus commanded was not a wise thing to do.
 - c) He could damage Jesus' reputation if Jesus' command was a mistake.
 - 4) Charles Ryrie, *To be successful in our service, we must obey his word, in spite of what friends might think or what knowledge might dictate or what circumstances might indicate or whatever fears might cause us to hesitate.*

2. Simon Peter was overwhelmed by the catch of fish (6-10a)
 - a. The catch was so large that the boats began to sink (6-7), *And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.*
 - 1) Peter's obedience to Jesus' command brought success.
 - a) The catch was so large that the nets began to break so other members of their fishing enterprise bought the other boat to help gather the catch.
 - b) Both boats began to sink at the weight of the catch of fish.
 - 2) Today, our success depends on obedience to Jesus through His written Word, the Bible.
 - b. Simon responded with amazement and fear (8-10a), *But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.*
 - 1) Peter was overcome with emotion and fell at Jesus' knees when he saw the catch of fish.
 - 2) He realized he was a sinner in the presence of the Lord who before he had considered a teacher or rabbi, verse 5.
 - 3) He begged Jesus to leave because he was overwhelmed by guilt and shame.
 - a) Charles Ryrie, ...*when confronted by the Lord, he saw himself for what he basically was: a sinful person. Then he recognized Jesus for who he was: his Lord, his master.*
 - b) It reminds one of the response of Isaiah when he was in God's presence, Isaiah 6:5, *And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"*
 - c) Darrell Bock, *What Peter does not realize is that admitting one's inability and sin is the best prerequisite for service, since then one can depend on God. Peter's confession becomes his résumé for service. Humility is the elevator to spiritual greatness.*
 - 4) Everyone who saw the miracle was astonished but the impact was deepest on Peter and the other fishermen.
3. Jesus called Simon and his fellow-workers to a new profession (10b-11), *And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*
 - a. Jesus replied to Simon with good news.
 - 1) He told Peter, *do not be afraid* because what was happening to Peter was God's will.
 - 2) He told Peter that there was a new occupation for him, to catch men.
 - 3) Peter had been catching fish which killed them. Now, he would catch men so they might have life.
 - b. Peter and his fellow fishermen responded to Jesus' call.
 - 1) They immediately abandoned their lives as fishermen to become disciples of Jesus.
 - 2) Larry Richards, ...*Jesus' call to discipleship was no spontaneous invitation issued to strangers. Jesus had invested significant time in their relationship before calling these four to become his disciples.*
 - c. Why does Jesus call some Christians to deeper service?
 - 1) Submission - a willingness to do whatever or go wherever He commands.
 - 2) Humility - It has been said that humility is the elevator to spiritual greatness.
 - 3) Reverence - Simon Peter's view of Jesus moved from teacher to Lord.

CONCLUSION

- A. The Christian life is one of submission to Jesus because He has authority.
 1. Submission brings peace, *don't be afraid.*
 2. Submission brings successful service, *fishers of men.*
 3. Submissions separates one from the world while drawing one closer to Christ, *they left everything and followed Him.*

- B. How can we be productive fishers of men?
 1. We must go where the fish are.
 2. We must have the right bait, Jesus Christ.
 3. We must have the right net, the Gospel.

- C. We proclaim the authority of Jesus as we submit to His calling and follow Him.