

# The Miracles Of Christ

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## Catchers Of Men

(Lk 5:1-11)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greetings...
2. Series of lesson on “The Miracles Of Christ.”
  - a. Last week we looked at “The Rebuked Fever.”
    - i. **Mt 8:14-15**<sup>1</sup>
  - b. This week we will be looking at “Fishers Of Men.”
    - i. **Lk 5:1-11**
3. Luke’s gospel account here is interesting for several reasons.
  - a. First because it is placed after the healing of Peter’s mother-in-law.
    - i. Your translation heading might be like mine...
      1. Jesus Calls the First Disciples.
    - ii. However in both Matthew & Mark’s account the calling of the disciples comes before the healing of Peter’s mother-in-law.
      1. **Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20**
  - b. Second because of the extra details.
    - i. We only read of Jesus walking along the sea of Galilee and calling the four men.
      1. **Mt 4:18-20; Mk 1:16-20**
    - ii. However in Luke’s account we find several other things.
      1. A great crowd.
      2. A lesson from Jesus.
      3. The fishing of the sea.
      4. Peter’s declaration and challenge.
  - c. Third because Jesus calls the men differently.
    - i. In both Matthew & Mark’s account Jesus calls the men to be “fishers of men.”
      1. The word “fishers” is a noun depicting occupation.
        - a. In other words Jesus was telling them He was going to change their occupation from fishermen to evangelist.
    - ii. In Luke’s account Jesus tells them they will be catching men.
      1. The word “catching” is a verb depicting catching that which is still living.
        - a. In other words Jesus was telling them He was going to teach them to be evangelistic.
4. All that is being noted because it seems to me that Luke’s account is not the same account as that of Matthew and Mark.
  - a. Some might say “wait” why is Jesus calling these men to be His disciples more than once?
    - i. Well we need to remember that at no point does Matthew, Mark, or Luke’s account say they at that point became disciples. In fact...

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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1. John, Andrew, and Peter were already Jesus' disciples before Jesus calls them to be fishers of men.
    - a. **Jn 1:35-42**
  5. With these things in mind let us look at our lesson for this morning.
- I. The Catchers Of Men Miracle**
- A. Jesus is standing by the lake of Gennesaret
    1. Lake Gennesaret
      - i. There are three other names for this lake.
        - a. Sea of Tiberias, Sea of Chinnereth, and Sea of Galilee.
      - ii. It is 13 miles long and 9 miles wide at its widest point.
      - iii. It is 680 feet below sea level and surrounded by mountains.
    2. Gennesaret is actually...
      - i. "the name of a very fertile plain three miles long and one-half mile wide on the northwestern shore of the lake."<sup>2</sup>
  - B. Jesus gets into Simon's boat
    1. The crowds were pushing so that Jesus gets into Simon's boat and has Simon go a bit out from the shore.
      - i. Jesus needed room to operate.
  - C. Jesus begins teaching the people again.
    1. The Greek word for "taught" is in the imperfect tense meaning a continued action from a previous state.
      - i. This suggests Jesus was picking up teaching from a previous lesson.
        - a. Most likely from that which brought the crowd there in the first place.
  - D. Jesus stops speaking to the people and speaks to Simon
    1. "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
      - i. The deep part of the lake is about 150 feet.
    2. Butler points out something interesting here...
      - i. "Here is a landlubber telling experienced fishermen how to fish!"<sup>3</sup>
  - E. Simon explains the dilemma but does what is asked of him
    1. He and the others had been fishing all night to no avail.
      - i. We see Peter's perplexity at the request of Jesus.
        - a. However Peter listened and did what the Lord asked of him.
    2. Peter had no idea Jesus was fixing to use him and the other in two different ways.
      - i. First Jesus was going to prove what He had been speaking on was from God not man, thus the miracle.
      - ii. Second he was going to use this a teaching tool to further illustrate what he had told them earlier about making them evangelists.
  - F. Simon and the others nets over flowed
    1. So many fish were in the nets that their nets were breaking.
      - i. They had to ask other fishermen around to help them.

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<sup>2</sup> The Gospel Of Luke by Butler, Paul pg. 82

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

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- G. Simon made a pointed declaration
  - 1. “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”
    - i. How many through the years have not figured that out?
- H. Jesus comforts and challenges Simon
  - 1. “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”

## II. The Lesson

- A. Christians might not always understand why
  - 1. Notice Peter didn’t know why he was casting his net again.
    - i. He did do what Jesus asked anyway though.
  - 2. We might not always, right off, understand why God expects us to so certain things.
    - i. But we need to make sure we don’t get caught up in the why and lose focus of actually doing what is asked of us.
  - 3. This isn’t to suggest there is no “why” answer, it just means you might not have matured in your studies to have the answer as of yet.
    - i. **I Th 5:22; II Pt 1:3**
- B. Christians need to remember they need God’s mercy
  - 1. Both Paul and John make this abundantly clear.
    - i. **Ro 3:23; I Jn 1:8, 10**
  - 2. What does that mean for us?
    - i. It means we must recognize we are not worthy of our God’s mercy and therefore ought not become to puffed up.
      - a. **Lk 17:10**
- C. Christians must be taught by Jesus to...
  - 1. Be evangelists
    - i. There is no doubt that contextually speaking this is talking about supported preachers.
      - a. That meaning ones that receive their livelihood from the support of the church.
    - ii. However if we think about it all Christians are expected to be evangelists.
      - a. We are all expected to teach others the gospel.
        - 1. **II Ti 2:2**
  - 2. Be evangelistic
    - i. If we are to be evangelists in general than it makes since that we are to be evangelistic.
      - a. Keep in mind Jesus literally tells the men “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching living men.”
    - ii. There is a song we sing “You Never Mentioned Him To Me.”
      - a. It is a sobering song expounding on the reality of one that died lost in sin while knowing a Christian.
      - b. When one dies it is too late for their soul to be saved.
        - 1. The Catholic denomination doctrine purgatory is false and not true.
          - i. **He 9:27**

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## CONCLUSION

1. Brethren, let us never forget this great miracle “Catchers Of Men.”
  - a. Let us not forget that we must always do the will of God.
  - b. Let us not forget that we are all in need of God’s great mercy.
  - c. Let us not forget that we are to seek and save the lost.
2. Question: Are you striving to follow God perfectly in all ways and in all things?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
  - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent and confess your transgression before God so He can forgive you and bear fruit of repentance by dedicating the rest of your life for Him.
    - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”
  - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required for you to become a child of God.
    - i. Hear/Study God’s Word **Rom 10:17**
    - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Heb 11:6; Jn 3:16; Jn 14:15**
    - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:3**
    - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32**
    - v. Obey The Gospel **I Cor 15:1-4; Rom 6:3-5**