

Luke 5:1 Now Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing around him to hear the word of God. 2 He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch." 5 Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing! But at your word I will lower the nets." 6 When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets started to tear. 7 So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they were about to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 9 For Peter and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's business partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." 11 So when they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Discussion questions:

1. How did your opinion change, knowing that this was NOT Simon Peter's first encounter with Jesus? Is it great faith or irresponsibility to meet Jesus one day and immediately leave everything and follow him?
2. Why do you think Jesus nicknamed Simon Jonahson "Rocky?"
3. There are very few adverbs in Scripture. Many times we are left to determine "how" someone said something by context. Tom tried to imagine how Peter might have replied to Jesus. What attitude did Tom think Peter had? Do you have a different insight as to how Peter might have spoken to Jesus?
4. The Bible says that the fishermen were "astonished at the catch of fish they had taken." What would a normal response be when one is astonished? How do you understand Peter's response of, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
5. What are the differences between professional fishing and angling? Is evangelism more like net fishing or bait and tackle fishing? Jesus said, "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was cast into the sea that caught all kinds of fish." (Matthew 13:47) How appropriate do you think it is to apply angling techniques to evangelism?
6. Do you expect the conclusion of the remake of *Ben Hur* to result in the main character becoming a believer?
7. If you rated yourself on humility to share the credit where might you be on the scale?
8. Willingness to serve others?
9. Readiness to follow instructions?
10. Ambition to accept the challenge?