

## Bible Study Guide: Week of 1-31-2022

1. Read through the passage below
2. Read my notes and commentary
3. Read the questions at the end and ponder or discuss with others

Pastor Andrew

### Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,<sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.<sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”<sup>6</sup> When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.<sup>7</sup> So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.<sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”<sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;<sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”<sup>11</sup> When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,<sup>2</sup> he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.<sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.**

The lake of Gennesaret is another name for the Sea of Galilee. This incident probably took place along northern coast of the sea. Jesus is followed by great crowds who, despite his rejection in his hometown of Nazareth in chapter 4, continue to come in large groups to see and hear Jesus. This particular incident occurs on the heels of Jesus’ healing of Simon Peter’s mother-in-law. Apparently Jesus and Simon knew one another already, but this incident in the boat seems to cement the relationship between them and also seems to serve as the official call to discipleship for Simon Peter.

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Simon’s response to Jesus’ sermon shows great faith. Despite the evidence that they would not have a catch that day, Simon obeys Jesus’ command. The word he uses to call Jesus “master” probably would have been the proper title or address for Simon himself as the head of the fishing company. We might translate this word as “boss” or “supervisor.” This would have been Simon’s role as owner and chief of the company, yet he acknowledges Jesus’ greater status by calling him “master.” Despite his objections, Simon obeyed Jesus’ command.

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The miraculous abundance of the catch foreshadows the church’s early successes at growing from a small, humble enterprise into a multi-national movement.

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Peter's reaction to the abundance of God echoes Isaiah's response in Isaiah 6. There, Isaiah has a vision of God in the holy-of-holies of the temple and he expresses dismay, because legend held that anyone who saw God's glory directly would surely die. In the same way, Peter is aware that the supernatural abundance of God is far beyond anything he could deserve or earn. Jesus reassures him that all of this (and Simon himself) are a part of God's plan. Just as Simon obeyed when Jesus told him to put out into shallow water and then to put out into deep water and cast his nets, now Simon obeys when Jesus calls him to follow as a disciple.

**Discussion/Reflection Questions:**

- 1. Why do you think Jesus got into a boat to teach the crowds?**
- 2. Why do you think Peter claims that he is a sinful person?**
- 3. Would you have been able to leave your nets (your livelihood) and your biggest catch ever (your resources) in order to follow Jesus as Peter and the others did? Why or why not?**