



When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Jesus. (Luke 5:11)

Loving Lord, you called ordinary fisherman to follow you and be your disciples. We thank you that you have come to us in the same way, calling us to live a life of faithfulness. Help us to put Christ first and so prioritize what is most important in our lives. In Jesus' holy name we pray. Amen.

Introduction

As Jesus was teaching along the shores of the sea, he came upon some fishermen. He asked one, named Simon, to take him out on the water, where Jesus produced a great catch of fish. Jesus then called Simon and some of the others to follow him.

Read: Luke 5:1-11

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

The Biblical Context

Much of Jesus' early ministry took place in the region of Galilee, on the northern end of the Holy Land. He traveled the through cities around the Sea of Galilee, often crossing over from one side to another.

Jesus did not come to the rich and powerful; he came to the ordinary people of the world and called them to be his followers. His first disciples were fishermen, two pairs of brothers: Andrew and Simon Peter, and James and John. As we see in today's story, they understood that they were not worthy of Jesus' grace, but they picked up and followed him nevertheless.

The word "disciple" means student or apprentice — one who learns. Jesus called many people to follow him as disciples. Among the men and women who accompanied him in his travels, the disciples who were the closest to him were known as "the Twelve."

Discussion Questions

1. If Jesus' intention was to teach the people, why do you think he got into a boat and put a distance between them? Why didn't he move closer?
2. Why were Simon and the other fishermen so tired? Do you think they really wanted to go back out on the lake with Jesus? Why do you think they did so?
3. What does the miraculous catch of fish tell us about Jesus' power? Can you think of any other stories where Jesus did something with fish? What theme do these stories have in common?
4. Jesus had just done an amazing thing for Simon. Why did he tell Jesus to go away? What was he feeling at that moment?
5. Have you ever had something really good or special happen to you that made you feel like you didn't deserve it? How is God's grace like that? How does God bless us in ways that we do not deserve?
6. What did Jesus mean when he said, "from now on you will be catching men"? To what new work was Jesus calling them?
7. In verse 5, Simon said, "At your word I will let down the nets." How is Jesus' *word* an important theme in this whole lesson? Who is the source of the Word? Who needs to hear the Word?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31. In what way is it reassuring to know that God works through ordinary people like us? What does that show about God himself?