

“Fishermen and Fishers of Men”

Luke 15:11-24

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I. Introduction

- A. If you are a fisherman, you should especially love this story today involving Jesus calling four fishermen to become fishers of men
 - 1. The story is about a miracle of what has been called “The miraculous draught of fishes.”
 - 2. Its purpose was:
 - a) Not to meet human needs
 - b) Not done in answer to any cry for help
 - c) Its value is didactic and to demonstrate Christ’s divine power and glory
 - 3. We have seen in Luke that Jesus:
 - a) Commands demons (Luke 4:31-37)
 - b) Cures the sick (Luke 4:38-44)
 - c) Now- Jesus controls the fish
 - 4. In this story, set on the Sea of Galilee, we see five aspects of Christ’s divine nature manifested

II. His Practical Wisdom (Luke 5:1-3)

- A. “The people pressed upon him to hear the Word of God” (v. 1)
 - 1. The term “Word of God” is not a synonym for the Bible here. The phrase “of God” is a subjective genitive in the Greek, indicating source
 - a) The people were listening to Jesus speak the Word that came directly from God
 - b) When Jesus spoke, it was God speaking
 - c) Jesus is the source of truth
 - 1) (John 1:14, 17)
 - 2) (John 14:6)
 - d) Everything Jesus taught was true

III. His Perfect Knowledge (Luke 5:4-5)

- A. Jesus is omniscient
- B. Jesus gives Peter a divine command
 - 1. It was demanding and seemed foolish (v. 4)
 - 2. Jesus knows what we should do
 - 3. Don’t doubt His wisdom (v. 5)
 - 4. Trust and obey
 - 5. Walk by faith, not sight

IV. His Powerful Dominion (Luke 5:6-7)

- A. Jesus is omnipotent (all power)
 - 1. This was a divine miracle

2. Jesus is Lord of nature
3. We see an example of Christ's lavish generosity
 - a) Obedience brings great blessing
 - b) Illustration- Feeding the five thousand
 - c) *"Christ will be in no man's debt. If you lend Him your boat, He will return it filled with silver fish."* – F.B. Meyer
4. We must do God's work God's way, then blessing will follow for God's glory

V. His Perfect Holiness (Luke 5:8-10a)

- A. Why did Peter fall down at Jesus' feet? (v. 8)
 1. A sublime awareness fell on Peter's soul
 2. An awareness of Jesus
 - a) Peter knew he was in the presence of God
 - b) Jesus is God, He is holy
 3. An awareness of himself
 - a) That he was sinful
 - b) Peter was aware that if he could see the depths of the lake, then he could see the depths of his soul
 - c) Seeing God, we see ourselves
 - d) "Woe is me for..." (Isaiah 6)
 - e) "My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you therefore..." (Job 42:5-6)
 - f) John- (Revelation 1)
 - g) Jesus said, "poor in spirit" (Matthew 5:3)
 - h) Jesus didn't grant Peter his petition
 - i) Contrast Peter's reaction in Luke 5 with John 21
 - j) Run to Jesus with your sin, not from Him. Jesus is our only hope.

VI. His Precious Mercy and Grace (Luke 5:10b-11)

- A. Jesus gave Peter a word of comfort
 1. "Fear not" (v. 10)
 2. Forgiveness, mercy, and grace
- B. Jesus gave Peter a call and commission
 1. "From now on you will catch men alive" (v. 10)
 2. Illustration- (Acts 2) and (Acts 10)
- C. Peter's new awareness of His mission
 1. "They forsook all" (v. 11)
 2. "They followed Him"

VII. Conclusion

- A. "Fear not"
- B. Go where He calls