

## God Is Fashioning His Chosen in the Wilderness

*Scripture: Luke 5: 1-11*

<sup>1</sup> One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

<sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who 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 from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began 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 full that they began to sink.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

<sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

<sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."

<sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Sermon: "God Is Fashioning His Chosen in the Wilderness"

### **I. Background: Luke is not an orderly historical account of Jesus's ministry, compared to Matthew**

#### A. How do we know?

1. Matthew 4:12-17 was the beginning of Jesus's ministry
2. Matthew 4:18-22 indicates Jesus's selection of disciples (Simon, Andrew, John, and James)
3. Matthew 8:14-17 shows that Jesus knew Peter since healings occurred at Peter's home
4. Luke 4:38-44 indicates Jesus knowing Peter prior to his calling in Luke 5:1-11
5. Conclusion

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- a. Luke 4 shows the beginning stages of Jesus's ministry (summarization, rejection, and account of Capernaum ministry and beyond)
- b. Luke 5 shows the Galilean ministry (calling of fishermen)

### B. Breakdown of Luke 5:1-11

1. Separating His Chosen and Sheep (vv. 1-3)
2. The Chosen's Testing of Their Obedience (vv. 4-5)
3. The Chosen's Glimpse of God's Power (vv. 6-11)

## II. Luke 5:1-3 – Separating His Chosen and Sheep

### A. The Classroom Setting (v. 1)

1. Teacher on land next to the lake
2. Many students
  - a. Circled Jesus
  - b. Listened

### B. Classroom Accommodated (v. 2-3)

1. Teacher in a boat on water
2. Many students
  - a. Remained on land
3. Simon's boat
  - a. Jesus selected Simon
  - b. Simon and the fishermen happened to not be part of the crowd (v. 2) since he was washing his net

### C. Symbolic Meanings

1. Gennesaret
  - a. Meaning in Greek from Hebrew: garden of the prince; valley of riches
  - b. Metaphysical meaning: sea of divine life
    - 1) Once the believer has become one with God and creation (in appreciation and love), the life of the believer will be one of true "exaltation and rulership and abundant substance"
2. Galilee
  - a. Meaning in Greek from Hebrew: rolling; turning; a ring; a circle; rolling energy; momentum
  - b. Metaphysical meaning: energy of life; life activity; soul energy
  - c. Symbolic meaning
    - 1) Increased activity when True arrives (exposure of Christhood) to touch the subconscious mind (imagination)
    - 2) Associated with "mountain" = high consciousness of life
3. Boat
  - a. Symbolic meaning

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- 1) Ministry (Jesus and disciples travel on boat to various places on the Sea of Galilee)
- 2) Speed or acceleration
- 3) Transportation
4. Net
  - a. Symbolic meaning
    - 1) Catching something (a gift, a vision, an object, profession, health, people)
      - a) Take the kingdom by force (Matthew 11:12 – From the days of John the Baptist until now, the Kingdom of Heaven suffers violent assault, and violent men seize it by force)
5. Simon
  - a. Meaning in Greek from Hebrew: hearkening; obeying; understanding; hearing
  - b. Metaphysical meaning
    - 1) substance (needs strength [Andrew]) also called faith
      - a) “What we hope for and mentally see as a possibility in our life comes into visibility, and we call it substance” – Hebrews 11:1  
“Faith is the giving substance for things hoped for”
    - 2) Bringing forth hearing
    - 3) Receptivity: A pious man seeking spiritual guidance and instruction from God
6. Summary
  - a. Gennesaret – a place where princes dwell (Prince of Peace)
  - b. Galilee – high spiritual activity and life from Truth
  - c. Boat - ministry
  - d. Net – a trap or catching
  - e. Simon – one who obeys

### D. Other Implications

1. Few chosen (those who were not “taught” – fishermen)
2. Sheep on land (those who were taught were not destined for ministry)
  - a. Sheep cannot tolerate being on a boat

### III. Luke 5:4-5 – Chosen’s Testing of Obedience

#### A. Situation

1. Disciples heard his teaching (no choice, they had to wait to put the boat away)
2. Jesus wants to fish after teaching
3. Simon agrees to fishing

#### B. Implications

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1. Chosen – the work continues (no rest) because they are focused with the designation and purposefulness to fulfill their calling
2. Faith – the response after hearing God’s Word

### IV. Luke 5:6-11 – Chosen’s Glimpse of God’s Power & Response

- A. Experience miracles – v. 6
- B. Experiential miracles occur with other ministries (two boats) – v. 7
  1. Work
  2. Collaboration
  3. Participation
- C. Repentance and Glorification – v. 8-9
  1. Acknowledgement of worship
  2. Acknowledgement of dependency to God
  3. Acknowledgement of God’s supremacy
- D. Reception of God’s calling – v. 10
  1. Before meeting the Lord, the disciples were training for their destiny
  2. The Lord reveals the assignment
- E. Reception of new assignments – v. 11
  1. Disciples fulfilled their assignment as fishermen
  2. Movement to new assignment
    - a. Total surrender
    - b. Total focus on God
    - c. Total submission to God’s teaching
    - d. Total vision replaced with God’s vision (fisher of men)