

Weekly Scripture and Sermon Study: History & Context Guide Luke 5:1-11

History, Culture, & Context

In this section of Luke, Jesus calls the first disciples to follow Him: Peter, James and Joh.

According to the Shepherd's Notes: Book of Luke, following Jesus takes three important things: (1) *Obedience*, as we see in vv. 1-5; (2) *Confession*, as we see in vv. 6-8; and (3) *Commitment*, that we see in vv. 9-11.



In vv. 1-5, Jesus is preaching to large crowds of people on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus noticed two empty boats and approached the owner, Simon Peter, to have the boats pushed out into the water. This way, Jesus could sit in the boat and teach the large crowds by the shore from the boat. After Jesus was finished preaching, he directed Peter to, "...go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." Peter responded to Jesus by saying they had fished all night and caught nothing but will do so.

In vv. 6-8, we see that Simon Peter's obedience has results! "And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear." Simon Peter was so overwhelmed by this miracle "...he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, 'Oh Lord, please leave me-I'm such a sinful man.'" Simon Peter's obedience led to amazement to the miracle Jesus performed, and confession of his shortcomings as a response.

In vv. 9-11, we see that Simon Peter's partners, James, and John, were also amazed at the miracle they witnessed. Jesus replied to Simon Peter, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people! And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus." According to *The Bible Background Commentary: New Testament* by Craig S. Keener, "Fisherman made a better-than-average income, so leaving their job is an act of radical commitment that they would expect to adversely affect them economically."

Questions to Consider

1. What did Jesus mean by telling Simon Peter that he will be "fishing for people"?
2. How can we make a "radical commitment" to follow Christ, just as the early disciples did?
3. What must everyone one of us do to answer Jesus' call to us? What will that look like for you personally?