



Today's Message

Date: April 19, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *Fishers of Men*

Text: Luke 5:1–11 (ESV)

¹ On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, ² and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. ³ Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. ⁴ And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." ⁵ And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." ⁶ And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. ⁷ They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." ¹¹ And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Introduction: The miraculous deeds Jesus performed during his earthly ministry confirmed his identity and verified his message.

That is why the Gospel of John calls them “signs.” This sermon text is Luke’s first account of Jesus calling disciples to follow him. He used a miraculous sign to confirm his identity (“I am the one you should follow”) and explain what it means to follow him (“You will fish for men”). So the text teaches us that . . .

Today’s take-home truth: Followers of Jesus Christ “fish for men.”

I. The example: “Fishing for men” means proclaiming a message. 1-3

- A. This message is the word of God . . . 1
- B. that calls people into the kingdom of God. Cf. 4:43

II. The sign: “Fishing for men” succeeds by the power of the sovereign Lord. 4-10a

- A. The Lord’s command was unreasonable. 4
- B. Peter was skeptical but obeyed anyway. 5
- C. The result could only be explained as a work of divine power. 6-7
- D. The appropriate response was confession and worship. 8-10a

III. The mission: “Fishing for men” requires full commitment. 10b-11

- A. Jesus calls his followers to “fish for men.” 10b
- B. His followers leave all behind because nothing is more important than Jesus. 11