

Gospel of Luke

House Group Notes for Luke 5:1-11,27-32 based upon sermon series



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“THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU AND THE POWER OF THE MOST HIGH WILL OVERSHADOW YOU” LUKE 1: 35

What do think Simon Peter thought about Jesus’ idea of going out fishing during the day?

Jesus is on the coast of Lake Galilee, just a short way from Capernaum. After Jesus has finished speaking to the crowd, this carpenter’s son from Galilee turns to Simon and tells him to go fishing again! The use of the nets actually makes the account even more remarkable – Simon knew that during the day nets were useless as the fish could see them. That’s why they used them at night!

How does this event early in Jesus’ ministry inform our understanding of John 21:2-7 and Acts 2:40?

In John 21, Jesus has been crucified and Simon and some of the other disciples had returned to their old jobs; all their hopes were shattered and they’d returned to what they knew best. Notice that they had gone out fishing at night again and now at daybreak they return to shore. The man on the beach tells them to do something absurd, but they can’t see who it is. Echoes of three years earlier perhaps come

to their minds. Could this be Jesus? Can you imagine the emotion when the nets were full? That’s when they realised who the man on the beach was. Notice in John 21:11 that “even with so many fish, the net was not torn.” Jesus told Simon he would “catch men” in Luke 5:10. I wonder if Peter reflected on the size of these catches and his ability to cope when Acts 2:40 actually happened?

Why was Jesus calling and eating with Levi so radical?

A new age is breaking in and this is a time of forgiveness. Those who knew they were sinners (outcasts) are invited into the Kingdom. Do we in the church exclude some people—if so, who and how?

DISCUSS FURTHER

In what way do you think that Simon’s response in Luke 5:5 echoes Mary’s in Luke 1:38? Presented with what appeared to be incredulous situations, their response was obedience that led to service. When God puts incredulous situations in your life, how do you respond? Can you think of examples?

LUKE 5:1-11,27-32

Filled with the Holy Spirit, having overcome in the wilderness, Jesus public ministry begins and Jesus calls his first disciples.

¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ 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.

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

⁵ 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."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ 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.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him...

²⁷ After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, ²⁸ and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. ²⁹ Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

³¹ Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Jesus and the Miraculous Catch of Fish in John 21

² Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. ⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. ⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. ⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

3000 believers - Acts 2:40

⁴⁰ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

