

PETER THE FISHERMAN

LUKE 5:1-11; ALSO MARK 1:16-20 AND MATTHEW 4:18-22

I. THE WORK THAT OCCUPIED PETER, V. 2 OF LUKE 5

A. AN HONORABLE OCCUPATION.

B. AT TIMES DISCOURAGING, SEE V. 5

C. THE VOCATION OF A LAYMAN

VOCATION.

1. HE HAD BELIEVED IN JESUS BUT HAD NOT GIVEN UP HIS REGULAR

2. MANY PEOPLE, IN FACT IT IS OBVIOUSLY TRUE OF MOST CHRISTIANS, JESUS HAD NEVER CALLED ON TO GIVE UP THEIR REGULAR WORK, BUT TO SERVE HIM AND BE A GOOD WITNESS THROUGH THEIR REGULAR JOB.

(See 6:12-16)

II. A PULPIT THAT HONORED PETER, V. 3

A. AN UNUSUAL PLACE TO PREACH

B. SIMON MUST HAVE FELT HONORED AND PLEASED THAT JESUS SELECTED HIS BOAT.

C. THE CROWDS LITERALLY PUSHED JESUS INTO THE SEA IN THEIR EAGERNESS TO HEAR HIM.

D. "CHRIST USES PETER'S BOAT AS A PULPIT, IN ORDER TO THROW THE NET OF THE GOSPEL OVER HIS HEARERS."

III. A COMMAND THAT CHALLENGED PETER, V. 4

A. THE COMMAND WAS TO "LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP, AND LET DOWN YOUR NETS FOR A DRAUGHT."

B. THIS WAS A CHALLENGE TO FISH AGAIN WHERE HE HAD FAILED.

1. SOME PEOPLE FEEL THEY COULD DO WONDERS SOMEWHERE ELSE INSTEAD OF GOING IN DEEPER WHERE THEY ARE.

2. MANY OFFICERS IN THE CHURCH EXCUSE THEIR FAILURE IN THEIR JOB AND CRITICIZE OTHERS IN THEIR OFFICE, AND SAY, "OH, IF I WERE IN HIS OR HER OFFICE I CERTAINLY COULD DO BETTER THAN THAT!"

3. IN THE MOMENT OF UTTER HOPELESSNESS COMES A CALL TO A NEW VENTURE OF FAITH.

C. PETER, THE EXPERT FISHERMAN, PROBABLY WAS SURE THAT SUCCESS WAS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE.

1. IT WAS DAY, AND THEIR BEST FISHING WAS AT NIGHT, NOT DURING THE DAY.

2. JESUS HAD ASKED THEM TO GO OUT INTO DEEP WATER, WHEREAS THEIR BEST FISHING WAS USUALLY NEAR THE SHORE.

D. PETER CALLED CHRIST "MASTER", A WORD THAT RECOGNIZED CHRIST'S AUTHORITY AND RIGHT TO GIVE ORDERS.

E. SIMON PROTESTED, BUT HE OBEYED.

1. WE ARE OFTEN DISCOURAGED BY THE DEAD WEIGHT OF PAST FAILURES.

2. BUT HE IS WILLING TO TRY, WHICH IS MORE THAN SOME CHRISTIANS WILL DO,

IV. THE SUCCESS THAT HUMBLING PETER - vs. 6-8

A. THE AMAZING SUCCESS, vs. 6-7

1. THEIR NETS ENCLOSED SO MANY FISH THAT THEY "WERE BREAKING"

2. THEY WERE IN DANGER OF LOSING BOTH THE FISH AND THE NETS ALSO

3. THEY FILLED TWO BOATS TO THE CAPACITY UNTIL THEY BEGAN TO SINK DOWN INTO THE WATER.

B. ITS HUMBLING EFFECT ON PETER, V. 8.

1. "DEPART FROM ME, FOR I AM A SINFUL MAN, O LORD!"

2. HE REALIZED HIS SIN IN DOUBTING SUCCESS.

A. HE HAD DOUBTED THE KNOWLEDGE AND POWER OF JESUS.

B. HE HAD BEEN TOO CONFIDENT IN HIS OWN EXPERT KNOWLEDGE OF THE SITUATION.

3. HE RECOGNIZED THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS, HIS HOLINESS AND DEITY THIS WAS QUITE A CONTRAST WITH HIS DOUBT AND RELUCTANCE JUST BEFORE

V. THE CALL THAT APPEALED TO PETER, VS. 10-11

A. TO BE A "FISHER OF MEN" OR "TO CATCH MEN ALIVE" *MARK 1:17*

1. "FROM HENCEFORTH" MARKED A CRISIS, THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA, IN PETER'S LIFE.

2. HERE JESUS DRAWS A GLOWING PICTURE OF THE FUTURE EVANGELISTIC POWER OF PETER, THE ROCK THAT IS TO BE.

B. EVERY MAN WILL BE "TAKEN ALIVE" BY SOMEONE.

THE GREEK WORD IS USED ONLY TWICE IN THE N.T.

1. HERE, "TAKEN ALIVE" FOR CHRIST BY A SOUL WINNER.

2. IN 11 TIM. 2:26, "TAKEN ALIVE" BY THE DEVIL.

C. THE CALL TO PERSONAL SOUL-WINNING. *MARK 1:17*

1. THE GREATEST WORK GOD HAS GIVEN TO MEN.

2. CHRIST'S PREFERRED METHOD OF WORK

3. THE HARDEST WORK TO DO

4. REQUIRES UNSHAKEN KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE FOR YOU, AND DETERMINATION TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS.

5. WILL YOU MAKE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION?:

"WHenever I am in such a personal conversation with anyone that I have opportunity to choose the subject of discussion, I will, by the help of God, try to witness for Christ, and speak to that person about his or her soul's salvation."