

# ***FPFWC Christian Development***



## **Jesus and Calls in His Ministry**

January 2021

Winter Quarter

**January 9, 2021**

**Lesson #2 – Called to Follow**

SCRIPTURE TEXT – Luke 5:1-11

**ICE BREAKER –**

- 1.** *What does God expect us to do when obeying Him does not yield any immediate benefit?*
  
- 2.** *What does it take to follow Jesus?*

***Key Verse: Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.—Luke 5:10b***

**LESSON BACKGROUND**

Luke 5:1–11 is part of the third of six major sections of Luke's Gospel. These sections present themselves as follows:

- I: Jesus' human relationships (1:5–2:52)
- II: Jesus' baptism and testing (3:1–4:13)
- III: Jesus' ministry in Galilee (4:14–9:50)
- IV: Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (9:51–19:44)
- V: Jesus' rejection and sacrifice (19:45–23:46)
- VI: Jesus' resurrection and ascension (24:1–53)

The third section covers Jesus' time and energy spent teaching, preaching, and performing miracles. All activities served as demonstrations of the good news, all were essential to Jesus' mission, and all called for response. That is certainly the case in Luke 5:1–11, today's text. (Matthew 4:18–22 and Mark 1:16–20 are parallel accounts.)

**LESSON COMMENTARY**

**5:1–11.** Jesus continued His teaching ministry in Galilee, right on the shore of the lake (5:1). It was at this time that Jesus met Simon (Peter), possibly because Jesus used Peter's boat as a preaching platform (5:3). When Jesus challenged Simon to continue fishing, even after an unproductive night (5:4–5a), it was a test to see if Simon understood who this man was. Verse 5 contains a fair amount of irony. Simon was the fisherman and knew fishing during the day would be pointless (fish feed on the insects that come out at night when it is cooler, and when it is darker so that they are less likely to be seen and eaten by other predatory fish). After all, Simon was the fish expert; Jesus was just a carpenter. What does He know about fish? But Simon complied, and his compliance led to a miraculous catch (5:6–7). Immediately Simon knew who Jesus was. Peter called him **Lord**

(5:8a). Peter's reaction was not a command for Jesus to go away but an expression of his own unworthiness (5:8b). Far from disqualifying Peter, his recognition of Jesus' worthiness and his own sinfulness is precisely what made him an ideal candidate to be a disciple. Jesus reassured Peter and gave him a new assignment (5:10b), as He did with James and John (5:10a), so that they **left everything and followed Him** (5:11). The point here is starkly simple: a disciple is one who sets everything else aside (literally if necessary) and follows Jesus. In addition, if Jesus could make Simon successful at something Simon knew was impossible (fishing during the day), then there was an implicit encouragement for Simon that Jesus could also make him successful at **catching men** (v. 10).

**LESSON NUGGET** – If you had fished all night and caught nothing, would you be getting ready to go out fishing again? One reason Jesus called several fishermen to be His disciples was that they never quit! Peter may have thought he knew more about fishing than Jesus did, but he did what Jesus commanded; and the Lord honored his obedient faith. No failure is final if you come to the Lord for a new start.

**Sources:** *Moody Bible Commentary, Standard Lesson Commentary, and The Essential Everyday Bible Commentary*