



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Calling Disciples

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In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke, a gentile, is writing to Theophilus so that he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke provided numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah. Luke, in chapter four, describes a hostile witness, tempter and adversary, the devil and his demons. After Jesus had spent forty days and nights in the wilderness and not having food during that time and under unsuccessful continual temptations or testing by the devil, Jesus returned to His hometown, Nazareth in Galilee, to begin His earthly ministry. Jesus shared that no prophet is welcome in his hometown and likewise His hometown rejected Jesus and attempted to kill Him. Jesus escaped and traveled 20 miles northwest to Capernaum, on the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum became Jesus' unofficial ministry headquarters. As was His custom, Jesus was in the synagogue on the Sabbath, reading scripture and teaching. Jesus met people in their environment.

“Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret; and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat. When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered and said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets.” When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break; so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, “Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!” For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.” When they had brought their boats to land they left everything and followed Him.” (Luke 5:1-11 NASB)

Fishing around and in the Sea. Jesus not only preached in the synagogues but also preached where the people lived and worked. Luke shares that Jesus preached the kingdom of God on the shore of the lake of Gennesaret, also known as the Sea of Galilee and the Sea of Tiberias. This body of water, 690 feet below sea level, was the main source of fresh water for the region and provided a livelihood to the local population. Many people in this area were fishermen, including Andrew, his brother Simon (Peter), and brothers, James and John, sons of Zebedee. All were partners in the fishing business and had been following Jesus for about a year prior to the fishing miracle (Jn 1:35-42). Luke shares that the crowd on the bank of the water was pressing in on Jesus, so Jesus got into a boat and went a short distance from the shore. As was the custom in the synagogue, He sat and taught the crowd. Jesus, through His message of the Kingdom of God to the people, was fishing for men. Then He taught the disciples.

The perfect fishing spot. Luke records that Jesus then directed Simon to go into deep water and begin fishing. While the four fishermen had been out at night, the ideal fishing time, they had caught nothing and while they did not expect to catch anything in the daytime, they obeyed. Simon, a seasoned fisherman, objected at first and then obeyed Jesus' directions and was rewarded for his obedience. Because they obeyed and followed Jesus' instruction they hauled in the biggest catch ever at the most unexpected time of day. The fishermen, after a night of failure, experienced a day of success when they followed Jesus' directions.

Fishing for men. To be a fisher of men, Jesus taught that many times 'the fishing' may take place at a time and place that is unexpected, but to be ready to follow His directions in His timeline.

For Your Consideration:

- Are you preparing to be a fisher of men in your environment? Your, Sea of Galilee? Where you live?
- Are you prepared to 'fish' at a time and place that is unexpected?
- Are you ready to follow Jesus' direction and His timeline to help make His disciples?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44