

"A SINFUL MAN"

The First Draught of Fishes

Luke 5:1-11

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. **ESV**

Matthew 4:18-22

¹⁸ While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. **ESV**

This is a study in harmony of the Gospels, and, answers the question: "What caused Peter to realize that he was "A sinful man?"

In John 1:36-51, John the Baptist with two of John's disciples, points to Jesus and declares "Behold, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Then Andrew finds his brother Peter and is convinced that Jesus is Messiah. They spend the night and find Philip and Nathanael. These all go to Cana of Galilee where the water is turned into wine. Apparently they return to their occupations.

Jesus goes to Jerusalem where He encounters Nicodemus, the woman at the well of Sychar; and then He heals the nobleman's son who is in Capernaum.

Next, Jesus orders them to give up all and He will make them "fishers of men."

The actual selection and ordination of the Twelve, "that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach and to have power to heal sickness and to cast out demons..." is recorded: {Matthew 10:1-15; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16}

The selection of disciples was not according to the world's standards: "God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." {1 Cor 1:27}

After healing the nobleman's son Jesus goes to Nazareth {Luke 4:16-30} and expounds on Isaiah and claims that He is the fulfillment of the passage.

Upon declaring the sovereignty of God, viz. to save non-Jews as well as Jews, the hearers are filled with rage and want to kill Him. He calmly goes to Capernaum.

The lake is known by several names: Old Testament: Sea of Chinnereth; New Testament: Lake of Gennesaret; Sea of Galilee; Tiberias.

As Jesus moves along the lake the crowds grow and press Him so He gets into a boat and pushes out a little from the shore to teach the people. We are not told what He taught.

After His sermon, Jesus tells Peter to "drop his nets for a catch."
Peter is astonished and replies in amazement, not unbelief.

"We have toiled all night and caught nothing!"

But Peter obeys Jesus and the nets begin to break; Peter calls for help and they come and the boat begins to sink due to the load.

The effect on Peter is overwhelming!

The question:

"What caused Peter to realize that he was "a sinful man?"

What did Peter "see"? Answer: Peter saw the Ruler of creation!

Psalm 8

LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!

You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
you have established strength because of your foes,
to still the enemy and the avenger.

3 When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

4 what is man that you are mindful of him,
and the son of man that you care for him?

5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,

7 all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

8 the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

9 O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth! **ESV**

"Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

Did Peter really want Jesus to leave him? Probably not; but when a man sees God in contrast to himself, he must acknowledge that it would be right and just for God to remove him from His presence.

Compare some other instances where a man saw the majesty of God:

Job 42:1-6

Then Job answered the LORD and said:

² "I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

³ 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?'
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

⁴ 'Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you make it known to me.'

⁵ I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;

⁶ therefore I despise myself,

Isaiah 6:1-5

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one called to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"

⁴ And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵ And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

What does "a sinful man" need?

Someone with the authority and power to say, "Do not be afraid."

Notice Peter was not saved to "do nothing." He was given a ministry.

How does one qualify to be "a fisher of men?"
Start at the feet of Jesus and acknowledge your sinfulness.

Augustine:

"Jesus used fishermen to draw emperors; not emperors to draw fishermen."

It is instructive to compare this event with the second time the Lord told Peter to cast his net.

John 21:1-14

After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. ² Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples were together. ³ Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." ⁶ He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea. ⁸ The other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire in place, with fish laid out on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. ESV

First Time

Second Time

Net broke; not possible to count the catch

Net not broken; exact count
{153}

To evangelists; preach and witness; count later;

To pastors and teachers; count
when shore reached

Some will get away {false professors}

God's elect is a fixed number;

Catch men, not count them.

May refer to Matthew 13:47-50
which indicates that all kinds
of people are going to be saved.

Matthew 13:47-50

⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ESV

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March 5, 2014

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