

## **Luke 5:1-11 – Calling the first disciples**

### **1. Christ the teacher (v1-3)**

Capernaum was a fishing village. In the morning you would find many people by the lake, bringing the catch in and mending their nets. But on this day, the crowds were there especially to hear from Jesus. He sat in a boat (from which he could teach the people without being crowded) and gave them God's light. He had no pulpit and wore no suit, but taught the ordinary people. Jesus came to teach all kinds of people the way of salvation. And if he is a teacher, then we must be students. We must listen and learn from him. The people were hungry (v1) – they crowded upon him. Do we feel hungry and needy to be fed by him? Most of these people later rejected Jesus; they did not benefit from what they heard. Do we listen with a better heart, ready to obey and give ourselves to him?

### **2. Christ the Lord of creation (v4-7)**

He taught them with words; but then showed them his power as the living Word. Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John were there. They were already believers in Jesus (John 1:40-42). He gave them a command to launch out and put down their nets (v4). It was a surprising command – what had he to do with fishing? The fishermen had already been out all night and got nothing; but Simon obeyed Jesus because he believed in him. This is true faith – that whatever else we see or feel, we believe and obey what Jesus has said. They caught a huge catch, more than enough for two boats to carry (v7). Jesus showed them that he was Lord of creation; even the fishes move at his command. He is truly Lord of all, and we should bow to him.

### **3. Christ the holy one (v8-9)**

Peter thought about this great miracle. Then he saw two new things – about Jesus, and about himself. He saw some of the heavenly glory of Jesus. He saw Jesus' great authority and power. He saw him as one who knew all things and could control all things. Jesus is the Lord from heaven; he is the Almighty God; everything happens at his command. Have you seen Jesus as he really is? In this light, Peter then saw himself. He saw himself as unworthy. He was sinful, and could not stand before the glory of the Son of God. He cried out when he realised his own evilness and sinfulness. Has Jesus showed you this about yourself? Have you cried out to him?

### **4. Christ the fisher of men (v10-11)**

There was good news for Peter. Jesus had not come to destroy him, but to save him and use him. After showing his authority, he then used that authority – he called Peter to leave behind fishing and be with him. True Christian training comes from learning from our teachers to walk with Jesus each day. The work for Peter now was to catch men (v10). This is our great aim; to win people for Jesus. The success and victory depend upon Christ. Peter had worked all night for nothing; but at Jesus' word, he had a great catch. It is the same in Christian service. Great numbers will be won to Christ, on the days that he chooses. Our duty is simply to obey him. Peter had no reason to fear. God would work powerfully in him to catch many (see Acts 2) at the right time. Jesus had showed his power to give him confidence. Jesus is the “Lord of the catch”; he did not come to destroy sinners, but to rescue them. Has he rescued you?