The Miraculous Catch of Fish


One day, Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Lake of Gennesaret (ge-NES-a-ret). Many people crowded around to be taught by him. Two fishing boats were nearby. One belonged to Simon and the other to James and John. These men had fished all night and were washing their nets.

Jesus climbed into Simon Peter’s boat and asked him to move it out into the lake a little so that he would be better able to teach the crowd of people who had gathered. Then he sat down in the boat and taught the people. When Jesus was done speaking, he asked Simon Peter to move out into the deep water and let down the nets to catch some fish.

Simon Peter answered that they had worked all night and caught nothing, but since Jesus had asked, he would do it. To their surprise, they caught so many fish that their nets began to break! Simon called to James and John to come and help. When they arrived, there were enough fish to fill both boats, and they filled them so full the boats began to sink!

Simon Peter saw the great catch of fish, and he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

Jesus comforted him by saying, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch [people].” So they took their boats to the shore of the lake, “left everything and followed him.”

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

The Lake of Gennesaret is another name for the Sea of Galilee.

Some days earlier, Jesus had told Simon Peter and Andrew and James and John to follow him, and he would enable them to fish for people

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I. From Simon’s boat, Jesus taught a crowd.

A. When he finished, he asked Simon to move to deep water and let the nets down.

B. Simon said they’d fished all night but had caught nothing.

II. Simon let the nets down only because Jesus asked.

A. They caught many fish.

B. Simon was overcome by the sense of his own sinfulness.

C. Jesus comforted him, and the men followed Jesus.

“Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.” And they left everything and followed him.