



Miraculous Catch of Great Multitude of Fishes

“And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net” (Luke 5:5).

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“.... And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men” (Luke 5:10).

We sometimes come to frustrating points in life when we feel there is no more hope, and that the only thing left is to “wash the net”, then pack up and go home to face the disappointed looks and empty stomach's of family members at home. God who is all knowing however, has the knack of turning midnight tears into joyful mornings and replacing sorrow with laughter (Psalms 30:5; 126:1-3) for those who will believe and obey His commands despite their circumstances (Proverbs 3:5,6); as illustrated in this text:

“And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, **2** And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. **3** And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. **4** Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. **5** And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. **6** And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. **7** And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. **8** 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 was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: **10** And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. **11** And when they had brought their ships to land, they for-

sook all, and followed him” (Luke 5:1-11).

What a wonderful day - from a disappointed night to a jubilant morning, and from being fishermen to becoming fishers men. This story teaches us many things including:

- 1) Uncomplaining obedience and willingness in service at the time of failure, disappointment or sorrow, brings divine rewards and miracles. Peter had a disappointed night, and was now washing the nets to go home, when Jesus requested to use His boat for preaching (vs 3). It was Peter's obedient service that led to the draught of many fishes (vs 4).
- 2) Jesus' command (vs 4) indicate that one must “launch out into the deep” for a catch rather than sitting at the shore expecting the fishes to come into the net.
- 3) Toiling all night without Jesus (vs. 5) produces no results.
- 4) Personal experiences does not nullify God's promise for the person who will let down the net “at thy Word” (vs 5).
- 5) Their obedience to Jesus' word resulted in a catch of “a great multitude of fishes”.
- 6) Partial obedience brings limitation and damage. Jesus instructed them to “let down your nets” (vs 4), but they “let down the net” (vs 5) which was so overfilled that it broke (vs 6).
- 7) With the help of their partners they safely brought the over filled ships which nearly sank to land (vs. 7, 11).
- 8) Overwhelmed by the miracle, they surrendered to Jesus and became fishers of men.