Research on: Jesus teaching on the Sea of Galilee

“Jesus is not a mere passerby; he preaches from Simon’s boat to crowds on the lakeshore; Simon lets down his net for a miraculous haul of fish at Jesus’ word; Jesus promises Simon a new career, which results in his and two of his companions abandoning everything to follow Jesus” (*AYB Luke i-ix.*560).

Luke 5:1-6, 10

1 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,

**Pressed** in Greek is *epikeimai* which means “to press upon, to be urgent.” (Strong 1945).

“*As the people pressed upon him,*with great eagerness, *to hear the word of God*— Insomuch that no house could contain them: they perceived Christ’s word to be the *word of God,*by the divine power and evidence that accompanied it, and therefore they were eager to hear it. It seems the sermons which Jesus had preached in his last tour through the country had made a great impression on the minds of the people who heard him; for they either followed him to Capernaum, or came thither soon after his return in great numbers, in expectation of receiving still further instruction from him” (Benson Commentary, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

**Hear** in Greek is *akouo* which means to “be endowed with the faculty of hearing, to attend to , consider what is or has been said, to understand, perceive the sense of what is said; to comprehend, understand” (Strong 191).

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing *their* nets.

“Two ships - The ships used on so small a lake were probably no more than fishing-boats without decks, and easily drawn up on the beach. Josephus says there were 230 of them on the lake, attended by four or five men each. That they were small is also clear from the account commonly given of them. A single large draught of fishes endangered them and came near sinking them” (Barnes’ Notes, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“*and were washing their nets; on shore;* they having gathered a great deal of soil and filthiness, but had caught no fish; and therefore were cleansing their nets, in order to lay them up, finding it to be in vain to make any further attempts with them at present; and which considered, makes the following miracle the more illustrious” (Gill’s Exposition of the Bible, www.biblehub.com).

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.

**Taught** is *didasko* in Greek which means “to teach; to hold discourse with others in order to instruct them; to instill doctrine into one; to explain or expound a thing” (Strong 1321).

“He sat down - This was the common posture of Jewish teachers. They seldom or never spoke to the people "standing." It may be somewhat difficult to conceive why Jesus should go into a boat and put off from the shore in order to speak to the multitude; but it is probable that this was a small bay or cove, and that when he was "in" the boat, the people on the shore stood round him in the form of an amphitheater. It is not improbable that the lake was still; that scarcely a breeze passed over it; that all was silence on the shore, and that there was nothing to disturb his voice. In such a situation he could be heard by multitudes” (Barne’s Notes, www.biblehub.com).

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

“*Now when he had left speaking*: Teaching the people, and preaching the word of God unto them out of the ship, as they stood on the shore before him.

“He said unto Simon, *launch out into the deep*; he spoke to Simon Peter, being the master of the vessel, to thrust it out, or put it off further into deep water, more convenient for fishing;

“*let down your nets for a draught*; of fishes: his meaning is, that he would give orders to his servants, to put out the vessel to sea, to take their nets and cast them into the sea, in order to take and draw up a quantity of fish, which was their business” (Gill’s Exposition of the Bible, www.biblehub.com).

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.

“***Master*** - This is the first time that the word here translated "Master" occurs in the New Testament, and it is used only by Luke. The other evangelists call him Rabbi, or Lord. The word here used means a "prefect," or one placed "over" others, and hence, it comes to mean "teacher" or "guide."

*“At thy word* - At thy command. Though it seemed so improbable that they would take anything after having in vain toiled all night, yet he was willing to trust the word of Jesus and make the trial. This was a remarkable instance of "faith." Peter, as it appears, knew little then of Jesus. He was not then a chosen apostle. Jesus came to these fishermen almost a stranger and unknown, and yet at his command Peter resolved to make another trial, and go once more out into the deep” (Barnes’ Notes, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“*all night*—the usual time of fishing then (Joh 21:3), and even now Peter, as a fisherman, knew how hopeless it was to "let down his net" again, save as a mere act of faith, "at His word" of command, which carried in it, as it ever does, assurance of success” (Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Commentary, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

“The huge catch of fish is obviously meant as something extraordinary, manifesting Jesus’ power in preparation for the promise to be made to Simon. It is achieved in response to a willing acceptance of a directive from Jesus” (*AYB Luke i-ix.*567).

6 And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

“*Their net brake* - Or their net "began" to break, or was "about" to break. This is all that is implied in the Greek word. If their nets had actually "broken," as our English word seems to suppose, the fish would have escaped; but no more is meant than that there was such a multitude of fishes that their net was "on the point" of being torn asunder” (Barne’s Notes, www.biblehub.com).

10And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

*“Fear not* - He calmed their fears. With mildness and tenderness he stilled all their troubled feelings, and to their surprise announced that henceforward they should be appointed as heralds of salvation.

“*From henceforth* - Hereafter.

“*Shalt catch me*n - Thou shalt be a minister of the gospel, and thy business shall be to win people to the truth that they may be saved” (Barnes Notes, [www.biblehub.com)](http://www.biblehub.com)).

Sources:

*The Anchor Yale Bible: The Gospel According to Luke (i-ix)*. Introduction, translation and notes

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