

## LESSON #12



### Spiritual truths from fishing

**Breakthroughs come to those who follow Jesus.**

#### Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

| KEY AREA                | DETAILS AND SUMMARY                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WHO (Author & Audience) | John- The Apostle John<br>Matthew- Attributed to Matthew though not named<br>Luke- Attributed to Luke though not named<br>**The audience is unbelievers and believers that all would receive the truth and be saved  |
| WHAT (Core Message)     | Jesus is real and has arrived openly revealing his divine nature to draw all men to himself. Jesus demonstrates that he can use anyone to extend the gospel regardless of background, occupation or station in life. |
| WHEN (Timing)           | Approximately AD 65 and 100 is the period of all 4 of the gospels.                                                                                                                                                   |
| WHERE (Location)        | The region of Palestine (Samaria, Judea, Jerusalem and Galilee) today called “The Holy Land”.                                                                                                                        |
| WHY (Rationale)         | John 3: 16- “For God so loved the world”<br>2 Peter 3:9- “That none shall be lost”.                                                                                                                                  |

### Introduction

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”. ~*Anne Isabella Ritchie*

Ok, so this quote doesn’t exactly zero in on the “fisher of men” statement made by Jesus, but it does place emphasis on the value and power of teaching another, **how to fish**; in this case, meaning how to catch, how to recruit, how to draw and how to disciple people. Jesus offered this teaching to 12 men that did not know him. Some who were fishermen by trade, but not fishers *of* men.

## Key Terms defined

| KEY TERMS  | <u>CONTEXTUAL</u><br>DEFINITION OF THE<br>WORD | WORD<br>IN GREEK<br>LANGUAGE | PRONOUNCE<br>THE GREEK WORD                 | SCRIPTURE<br>REFERENCE     |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| DISCIPLE   |                                                | <i>mathētēs</i>              | <i>mah-thee-TEES</i><br><i>math-ay-TACE</i> | Matt 10: 24<br>Luke 14; 27 |
| FELLOWSHIP |                                                | <i>koinonia</i>              | <i>koy-nohn-EE-ah</i>                       | 1 John 1: 3<br>1 Cor 1: 9  |
| PARABLE    |                                                | <i>parabole</i>              | <i>parabole</i>                             | Matt 13:18<br>Luke 15: 3   |
| TESTAMENT  |                                                | <i>diathēkē</i>              | <i>dee-ath-ay-kay</i>                       | Heb 7:22<br>Heb 9:18, 20   |

Some facts about the Sea of Galilee. It is not “the sea” as seas are defined. It is a freshwater lake that is fed by the Jordan river and underground springs. It is an area known for very violent storms that can come out of nowhere. The lake itself is the primary source for fish, fishing related industry and trade routes. On any given day there would be hundreds of boats in every direction.

## SECTION 1: A NEW KIND OF FISHING

(Read Luke 5:1-11)

### Discussion Questions

1. **Text focus:** Simon and his associates were professional fishermen. They knew the waters and how to operate to catch fish successfully. In Luke 5, they fished all night long and caught nothing. Is it possible this was just bad timing and bad positioning, or do you think there was something else hindering their progress?
2. Simon obeyed Jesus and relaunched his boat into deeper waters catching a staggering amount of fish filling 2 boats almost sinking them. The nets were filled to the max, tearing, but not breaking. Then Jesus said to Simon, “*Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.*” Explain how this sequence was orchestrated by Jesus and what this moment meant for Simon?
3. **Application:** One could ask the question, what made Simon, James and John special enough that Jesus recruited them? How would you answer that question?

More facts about the Sea of Galilee. The immediate area around the lake was very humid with a high moisture level. For this reason, there were areas of lush vegetation and perfect conditions for growing olives, figs, grapes and walnuts. If you weren't a fisherman, you could thrive in other industries by tapping into these other resources.

## **SECTION 2: MIRACULOUS CATCH OF FISH**

**(Read John 21:1-14)**

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Text Focus:** Jesus could have appeared post-resurrection, in one of two ways. With vengeance in mind (you guys left me!) or with compassion and remembrance of his mission (it was for the son of man to suffer, not you). Thankfully he chose the latter. Why do you think he did so?
- 2.** For a fisherman, having a good day or a “good haul” is nothing new. It happens quite often, but what was different or new about this day and this haul in John 21?
- 3. Application:** Jesus prepared a breakfast for the fisherman? Then he said, “*Bring some of the fish you just caught*”. *John 21:10*. How does this phrase sum up the mission of the church and its members?

Even more facts about the Sea of Galilee. Also called Lake Kinneret, Sea of Tiberius and Lake Genneserat. There were about 20-25 different species of fish in those waters. Matt 13:47-48 gives us something to think about. Just think what it might take to catch them. There is a process and technique to fishing. You must consider the use of nets, type of bait, weights, lines and location (depth). This should remind us about the world we are “fishing” in and what it takes to draw men to Jesus.

## **SECTION 3: TAXES AND A DRAGNET**

**(Read Matt 17:24-27 & Matt 13:47-51)**

### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. Text Focus:** After reading Matt 17: 24-27, what is Jesus asking Peter and what is he explaining to Peter in response to the temple tax issue?
- 2. Application:** Jesus satisfied the temple taxation by a miraculous command for Peter to go, catch a fish and open its mouth to retrieve a coin (*drachma*) that would cover the exact amount of both their taxes. What does this sequence of events represent for us as disciples of Jesus?

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**Conclusion:** As disciples of the Lord Jesus, once we are *caught* by Him, our primary mission in life is to become fishers of others. Whether at home, work, school or on a sports team, this should be the goal. Just as a fisherman will use various tactics and techniques to catch fish, we must use various tactics and techniques in our approach to capturing and drawing others to Jesus.