

Catch Men

Chapter 2

Audio Lesson: New Testament #20



Objective: To further explore the Gospel of Luke, to understand Jesus' invitation to partner with Him in ministry, and to understand three parables from Luke 15.



Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

—Luke 5:10-11

"Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep. I tell you that in the same way there will more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not repent."

—Luke 15:6-7

Jesus proclaims His mission in chapter four, proves it in chapter five, and then practices His mission in the rest of the book of Luke. Jesus was continuously teaching and training His disciples and challenging others to become partners with Him in His mission. The first clear example of this was the way He recruited Simon, called him Peter, and asked him to follow and become a "fisher of men." Jesus had been teaching by the shore using Peter's boat as a platform. When He finished preaching, He told Peter to put his boat out into deep water and let down his nets—even though Peter had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. When Peter obeyed and his nets were full, he realized that the real fisherman was Jesus—that Jesus can accomplish anything through His servants.

Jesus demonstrated His mission in three parables in Luke 15 about seeking and saving lost people. As a shepherd seeks his lost sheep, a woman seeks a lost coin, and a father seeks a lost son, Jesus came to save sinners and bring them into His kingdom. He invites everyone to join Him in this mission and share His good news with those who are lost.



1. True or false? Jesus does not need or want people to partner with Him in His mission. He must do it by Himself.
2. True or false? Jesus chose Peter to follow Him because Peter was so well qualified and spiritually mature.
3. True or false? When we attempt to lead someone to Christ, we are attempting something that is impossible for human beings to do on our own.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

4. What kind of ministry does Jesus want to accomplish through us?
 - a. The same kind of ministry He did on earth
 - b. Only what is humanly possible
 - c. Only to teach His truth, but not to heal or set people free
 - d. None of the above
5. Why was Peter able to catch fish when Jesus instructed him to?
 - a. Because he was a skilled fisherman who never failed to catch something
 - b. Because of his knowledge of the sea and its currents
 - c. Because he never gave up, even when he got tired
 - d. Because Jesus was with him
6. How are we filled with God's Spirit?
 - a. By fasting and meditating for at least 40 days
 - b. By allowing God to have total control of our lives
 - c. By memorizing enough scripture to recite it in any situation
 - d. By becoming sinless through our obedience to the law
7. When Jesus got into Peter's boat, it pictures our lives being filled with the Spirit. What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit?
 - a. We can catch lots of men.
 - b. We can speak in tongues.
 - c. We can perform miracles.
 - d. We are controlled by the Spirit.
8. How does God view sinners?
 - a. As enemies
 - b. As people without any hope of redemption
 - c. As lost sheep
 - d. As people who have become unimportant to His kingdom
9. Why did many of the religious leaders disapprove of Jesus' eating with sinners?
 - a. They were concerned for His reputation.
 - b. They were concerned for His safety.
 - c. They were jealous that they were not invited to the feast.
 - d. They did not understand His mission to seek those who were lost.

10. Whom does Jesus authorize to do the work of ministry?
- a. Everyone who believes in Him
 - b. Only those who are ordained as priests and ministers
 - c. Only those with the proper education
 - d. Only the righteous who have kept all of God's laws

11. What truths did Peter have to learn? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. I am not a fisher of men, but Jesus is
 - b. I cannot catch men, but Jesus can
 - c. I do not even want to be a fisher of men, but Jesus wants me to.
 - d. I did not catch men, but Jesus did because He was with me



In what ways have some of Jesus' followers ministered to you? In what ways can you minister to other people? Jesus is still calling and seeking the lost; have you been found?

Have you learned the four truths that Peter learned? Jesus is still calling us to come and join Him in catching people. Will you allow Him in your "boat"—your life?



Thank God for sending Jesus Christ to seek and to save those who are lost. Ask Him to guide you as you seek to join Him in His mission and to give you opportunities to share His good news with others.



Going Deeper

1. As recorded in Luke 5:1-11, why did Jesus tell Peter not to be afraid because he would catch men? _____

2. What did Peter fear, and why did he tell Jesus to go away from him? _____

3. How can you relate this story in Luke 5:1-11 to Matthew 4:19, and also to the very familiar 19th and 20th verses of the third chapter of the book of Revelation? _____

4. In what ways do the two words of Jesus to Peter, “*catch men*,” make a short version of the Great Commission of Jesus, which is given at the end of each Gospel and at the beginning of the book of Acts? _____

5. What four spiritual principles did Peter have to learn before he could be a catcher of men and not just fish? _____

6. Have you learned or are you learning those four spiritual principles yourself today? _____

7. When you realize that Jesus came to minister to the blind, the bound and the brokenhearted when He had a body of His own, how do you think He wants to minister to those people through you and me and all those who are His body today? _____
