

## LESSON #8 - FISHING BY FAITH - LUKE 5: 4-11

**COMING TO THE WATERS** - We live in a scientific, logical world. But when the Lord tells us to COME TO THE WATERS, He offers a refreshing change...the ability to move forward with logic and the added component of FAITH.

**THE PRAYER** - Dear Lord, how dry our lives would be if You had never extended the invitation to COME TO THE WATERS. Thank You for placing the miraculous into our hearts and lifting us up from the mundane. We praise Your Name in Jesus. Amen.

**PARCHED HEARTS - ILLUSTRATION** - In 1995, a fishing boat began to sink in the rough, cold waters off Vancouver Island, leaving two men in a life raft. They thought they were safe until they realized that their raft was tied to the sinking boat by a nylon rope. When their ship would finally go down, their raft was going to be pulled under. Neither man had a knife to cut the rope, so, for an hour, the two men alternated chewing the rope. One man lost a tooth in the frantic gnawing. Minutes before the ship sank, the men finally chewed through the rope and survived.

**THOUGHT:** I think those fellows paint a pretty accurate picture of the world. Our sinful world is sinking. Even more importantly, each of us who live in this world is sinking. We look around for some way to free ourselves from the danger, but we're trapped. The only difference between us and those men, is we cannot release ourselves from the sins that have trapped us. If we are to be saved; if our lives are to have purpose, it is only through the intervention of Jesus. He will, if we listen, enable us to FISH BY FAITH.

**FIRST APPLICATION** - Almost 2,000 years ago on the Sea of Galilee, a fisherman learned how Jesus could change his life. FISHING BY FAITH, Peter found that his world and his life had new meaning. The questions which follow are taken from the fifth chapter of Luke.

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH - HUMANKIND'S THIRST (Luke 5)** - Because of a large crowd which was following Him, Jesus had borrowed one of the fishing boats while the fishermen were cleaning their nets. From that floating pulpit, He had instructed the people. We pick up the narrative after Jesus had finished His message.

VERSE	QUESTION	ANSWER
v. 4	What did Jesus want Peter to do?..... Launch into the deep and go fishing. What problem is there with that? ..... Fish are usually not in "the deep" .....It's better to go fishing at night .....They had been cleaning up...now they had to get everything out again.	
v. 5	What problem does Peter see? .....The professional fisherman had been "skunked". Does Peter seem eager to do what Jesus asks?..... <u>  </u> YES <u>  </u> NO	
v. 6	What is the result of FISHING BY FAITH .....They get too many fish.	
v. 7	What does Peter do?..... He signals others to come and help.	
v. 8	How does Peter react to the miracle? .....Wants Jesus to leave. Why?.....As a sinful man, He is unworthy to be in Jesus' presence.	
v. 10	What is Jesus' invitation to the fishermen? ..... They would FISH BY FAITH.	
v. 11	How do they react to the invitation?.....They leave everything.	

Having heard this story, we take it for granted that it would happen that way. But, if you were there, what would you have done? Answer these questions:

**THIRST FOR AN ANSWER:**

1. If Jesus had told you to go to work AFTER you put your tools away, would you?.....    YES    NO  
 (Remember, you wouldn't have known Jesus was God's Son, our Savior.)
2. Would you do something which didn't make sense? .....    YES    NO
3. Would you have been willing to leave your work and follow Jesus?.....    YES    NO

**ISAIAH 55:1 "COME, ALL YOU WHO ARE THIRSTY, COME TO THE WATERS  
GROUP BIBLE STUDIES - TEACHER'S PACKET - LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

4. What would your wife say if you told her you were a fisher of men?.....  
Now we all know what the right answers would be to these questions, BUT..... They all seem to go against our regular way of operating. When we start FISHING BY FAITH, we find that many of the things which we normally believe, go out the window. Take a look at these Scripture passages from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and see if this is the way the world acts:

**2. SCRIPTURE SEARCH - DEEP DRINKING**

<b>VERSE</b>	<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
Matt 5:4	Do mourners feel blessed?.....	__ YES __ NO
	How can a Christian mourner be blessed?.....	By knowing Jesus gives a reunion
5:5	Does the world prize a "meek" person? .....	__ YES __ NO
5:7	Does the world appreciate the merciful? .....	__ YES __ NO
	Does the church? .....	__ YES __ NO ALWAYS? _____
5:10	Does the world value being persecuted? .....	__ YES __ NO
	Why should a Christian?.....	Because he is showing his commitment to Jesus
5: 11	Does a person in the world feel blessed when this happens? .....	__ YES __ NO

**QUESTION**

Can you think of times when God has called upon His people to FISH BY FAITH and they did so....even though they might not have understood why? (Examples will vary:)

1. Moses stretching out his arm over the Red Sea so the waters would separate.
2. Naaman washing himself in the Jordan to rid himself of leprosy. (2 Kings 5: 11-15)
3. The Children of Israel marching around the city of Jericho.

Those who are skeptics like to challenge, "It was easy for these folks, because God told them what they were supposed to do. I would do all those things if God talked to me." What reply would you give to such a statement? .....The Lord does speak to us in His Word. There He tells us how to proceed.

**THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION:** - Looking to God's Word, we hear His invitation to COME TO THE WATERS and from there, we can, in faith, go to places where logic alone cannot take us. A number of years ago, a Japanese magazine had a picture of a dull, grey butterfly on one of its pages. If you placed your hand on that page, the special ink changed the butterfly into a rainbow of color. Similarly, when we are FISHING BY FAITH, our dull lives are transformed by the hand of God into something beautiful. We catch a whole lot more, in stranger places, than we ever thought possible. In our Sharing the Sav(i)or section answer how this truth can make a difference to:

**SHARING THE SAV(I)OR (If you have time in your lesson or wish to work at home)**

THOSE WHO ARE BEING CHALLENGED:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Financially                         | God can grant ways to help ends meet.     |
| With health problems                | God can provide comfort through friends   |
| In a church/school that is building | God can grant courage to move ahead.      |
| Lutheran Hour Ministries            | God can open up new doors for witnessing. |

With thanks we can come to the Lord and rejoice that we FISH BY FAITH. Jesus is with us...we are not alone...the Holy Spirit empowers us. It is a source of joy that makes a Christian's life exciting. And, if your life isn't exciting....maybe you should ask, "Am I FISHING BY FAITH?"

**THANKS FOR THE WATERS** - Dear Lord, we give thanks that we, as citizens of the Kingdom of Grace, do not live just by logic and reason. Faith, believing in the things that are not proven, is a source of strength, joy and purpose that the world cannot know. Empower us to move forward in that faith, doing things which glorify Jesus, our Savior and Lord. In His Name. Amen.