

# WHAT A FISHING TRIP

Lk. 5:1-11.

## I. The Fisherman's Failure.

1. Experienced, Earnest, Wise Fisherman, yet Empty nets.
2. We also have Empty nets.

## III. The Ready Response. vs. 5

### 1. Faith's Obstacles.

- A. Weary men, toiled.
- B. Day not proper time to fish.
- C. Memory of failure.

### 2. Faith's Triumph "at thy word".

## II. The Ringing Challenge

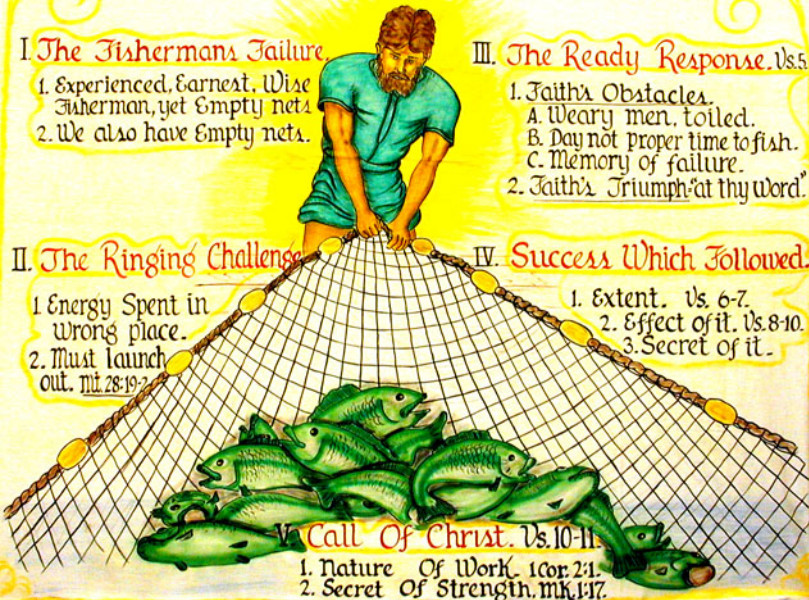
1. Energy Spent in Wrong place.
2. Must launch out. Mt. 28:19-20.

## IV. Success Which Followed.

1. Extent. vs. 6-7.
2. Effect of it. vs. 8-10.
3. Secret of it.

## V. Call Of Christ. vs. 10-11.

1. Nature Of Work. 1 Cor. 2:1.
2. Secret Of Strength. Mk. 1:17.



## **WHAT A FISHING TRIP**

Luke 5:1-11

INTRO: All of the miracles of Jesus have a spiritual significance. It is a parable in a miracle. It contained a lesson for the fisherman; it contains lessons for us.

### **I. THE FISHERMAN'S FAILURE.**

- A. They were experienced and earnest fisherman. They had fished at the proper time, yet they caught nothing. They stood on the shore with empty nets.
- B. This is the experience of many disciples who are seeking to save the lost. After all their effort, they have nothing to show but empty nets.

### **II. THE RINGING CHALLENGE. VS. 4.**

- A. They had been spending their time and energy at the wrong place. They were not urged to wait for the fish to come into their nets, but to go where the fish were.
- B. Many disciples are spending their time and energy within the small circle of their friends; we are urged to launch out into the depths of humanity. We are not to wait for the lost to come to us; we are to go to them. Matt. 28:19-20.

### **III. THE READY RESPONSE. VS. 5.**

In the words of Peter we have:

- A. Faith's Obstacles: "We toiled all night, and took nothing."
  - 1. They were weary men; they had "toiled all night."
  - 2. The day was not the proper time for fishing. They might have said, "Master, if we cannot catch then in the night, how can we catch them in the glare of the sun?"
  - 3. The memory of failure was very vivid.
- B. Faith's Triumph. "But at thy word I will let down the nets." This is a triumph over physical feelings, over experience, over tradition, etc. It is a victory of faith when men who are weary and discouraged with life's failures launch out at Christ's word.

### **IV. THE SUCCESS WHICH FOLLOWED.**

- A. The Extent of It. Vs. 6-7.
- B. The Effect of It. Vs. 8-10. When Peter again saw the glory of the Messiah through this miracle, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Depart from me." It was not that he despised Jesus, but that he despised himself in Jesus' holy presence.
- C. The Secret of It. Success was not in changing men, boats, or nets, but success was achieved by the same instruments that had failed. They succeeded because they followed divine instruction, because they acted by faith.

### **V. THE CALL OF CHRIST. VS. 10-11. THE MASTER POINTS OUT:**

- A. The Nature of Their Work: “Fishers of Men.” They were to remain fishers, but from henceforth they were to catch men. Every disciple should do the same work. We should not be as the hunter who catches his prey by killing, but like the fisherman who catches his prey alive. As fishermen, we must keep ourselves in the background. 1 Cor. 2:1.
  - B. The Secret of Their Strength: “Come ye after me.” Mark 1:7. The disciple must abide near the Master for power. By accepting Jesus’ challenge and abiding in His presence, we can enclose a multitude. In His absence, we can catch nothing; in His presence our success is marvelous. Only as we follow Christ in nearness can we have influence over men for good.
- CONCL: From what made this a successful fishing trip, we learn what it takes for us to be effective workers for Christ.