

LUKE Lesson 10

Let Down Your Nets: Chapter 5:1-11

10 August 2018

Jesus ministered to *multitudes*. Within those multitudes, there were some people who faithfully followed Him to hear His teaching; these were called *disciples*. Within that group of disciples, Jesus called out *12 apostles* who would follow Him for 3 ½ years as he travelled around teaching and ministering to the people. And within that group of 12 men, we notice that 3 of them were part of Jesus' closest inner circle of disciples. Peter was one of them; James and John were the other two (See Mt 17:1, Mk 5:37, 9:2, 13:3, 14:33, Lk 8:51, 9:28). The Bible says, **"In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established"** (2 Cor 13:1). Today we'll learn an important lesson about complete obedience by observing Peter's first encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ.

1-3 Jesus entered into Simon Peter's ship and asked him to push Him out a little from the land. The reason He taught the people from the water was to take advantage of the audio amplification qualities of a large body of water.

Vs 4 The Lord's command: Jesus told Peter, **"Let down your nets"** (plural).

Vs 5 Peter's response: he leaned to his own understanding instead of trusting Jesus. Then he obeyed the Lord partially; he let down a single net. Partial obedience is the same as disobedience (1 Sam 15:13-19).
Many Christians obey the Lord partially; just enough to appear faithful when other people see us. Total obedience is a complete sacrifice where you give your life wholly (not partially) to Jesus (Rom 12:1).

6-7 Because of their partial obedience, the great blessing provided by the Lord became a burden. Don't let your unbelief turn God's blessings into a problem because you're not prepared to receive them.

Vs 8 When Peter saw the great blessing, the Holy Spirit revealed to him that he was **"a sinful man."** He realized that he had not obeyed Jesus Christ fully. When you begin to live a life of obedience to the Lord's commands, that's when you'll really start enjoying His blessings.

9-10 The blessing of multitudes of fish was intended to teach the disciples that it is possible to **"catch men"** without having to leave your earthly occupation. Not every Christian will be called to be a pastor, evangelist, or missionary. But every Christian is called to win souls (Acts 1:8, Mt 4:19, Mk 1:17). That begins with complete obedience to the Lord's commands as you read and study your Bible.

Vs 11 These men were ready to forsake all and follow the Lord Jesus, recognizing the importance of full obedience to Him. You'll be able to draw men to Christ as they begin to see Christ in you.

Your flesh will try to get you to consider the cost of following Jesus. You need to consider the blessings that Jesus provides when you obey—and be ready to receive them (Mt 19:27-29).
