

An Extraordinary Catch

Luke 5:1-16

by Don Falkos

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Early one morning Jesus was teaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. A crowd had gathered so Jesus stepped into Simon's boat and asked him to push out a little from the shore. Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the people.

When he'd finished teaching Jesus said to Simon, "Take us out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

As soon as the nets had been cast they were full of fish, so full the nets began to tear. Simon called to his partners to come and help. Together they filled both boats so full they were nearly swamped. They were all amazed at how many fish they had hauled in.

Simon fell to his knees in front of Jesus and cried out, "Lord, leave me. I'm such a sinner. I'm not worthy to be in your presence."

But Jesus said, "Simon, don't be frightened. From now on you're going to haul in people instead of fish."

When they reached the shore, they pulled the boats up on the sand. Then Simon and his partners, James and John, left everything and followed Jesus.

Jesus went into a town where there was a man with leprosy, who threw himself down in front of Jesus crying, "Lord, if you are willing, you can heal me."

Jesus reached out and touched the man saying, "I'm willing. You are healed." And the leprosy was gone.

News of what Jesus had done spread far and wide. Large numbers of people came to hear Jesus and to be healed of various illnesses. But more and more often Jesus slipped off out into the desert to be alone and to pray.