

## Lesson 6

# The Call of Several Disciples and Some Miracles

Luke 5

### The Miraculous Draught of Fish and Call of Peter, James, and John (5:1-11)

While Jesus was preaching by the lake of Gennesaret (sea of Galilee), the crowds pressed around



The Sea of Galilee.

Him. There were two ships nearby; the owners had fished all night and were cleaning their nets. Jesus entered one boat, the boat of Simon (Peter), and requested that he row out from shore a small distance. Jesus used that as a pulpit and preached to the multitude.

When He finished speaking, He told Simon, “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught” (5:4). Simon and his partners, James and John, had fished all night without success; they were fishermen by trade. Nevertheless, at the command of Jesus, Peter said, “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let

down the net” (4:5). When Peter obeyed the Lord, so many fish were enclosed in his nets that the nets began to break. He called James and John to help him. They put so many fish in their boats that they began to sink.

Peter realized who Jesus was—the Lord of heaven and earth. He said, “Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (5:8). When the boats were brought

to shore, Jesus called Peter, James, and John to be His disciples. They left all and followed Him (5:11).

### Healing of the Leper (5:12-16)

On one occasion, Jesus entered a city. A leper approached Him saying, “Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean” (5:12). Jesus responded, “I will, be thou clean” (5:13). Immediately the leper was cleansed of his disease.

Jesus charged the leper to tell no man of his healing but to go show himself to a priest who would pronounce him clean and healed (see Lev. 13-14). By examining the man and finding him cleansed of leprosy, the priests authenticated that a miracle had been performed (v. 14—“for a testimony unto them”). This miracle was reported widely; multitudes came to Jesus for healing. Jesus withdrew from the crowds to find solitude for prayer (5:16).

### Healing of the Paralytic Borne of Four (5:18-26)

Pharisees and doctors of the law traveled to see Jesus from various towns in Galilee and Judea; some



A modern day fisherman on the Sea of Galilee still fishes with nets much as those in the first century did. Photo courtesy of HolylandPhotos.org.



**In the 1980s, archaeologists uncovered a first century boat from the Sea of Galilee. This is a reconstruction of what it originally looked like. Peter, Adrew, James, and John must have used a craft very similar to this in their fishing business. Photo courtesy of HolylandPhotos.org.**

even came from Jerusalem. Jesus was teaching in a house and was healing those who were sick.

A man who had palsy and had heard that Jesus was in the area persuaded four of his friends to take him to Jesus. When they arrived at the house where Jesus was teaching, they were unable to enter because of the crowd around the door. The friends took the paralytic on the roof, removed the tiles from the roof, and let him down near Jesus.

Jesus saw their faith and said, “Man, thy sins are forgiven thee” (5:20). The scribes and Pharisees began to reason, “Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” (5:21) Jesus knew their thoughts. He replied, “What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (He said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house”

(5:23-24). Immediately the man was healed. The crowd marveled at the miracle.

### **The Call of Levi (5:27-32)**

After this miracle, Jesus saw a publican (a tax collector) named

Levi (also known as Matthew) sitting at the tax collecting place. Jesus called him to follow Him. Levi left all and followed Jesus.

Levi made a feast for his friends to meet Jesus. A great company of publicans and others attended the feast. The scribes and Pharisees murmured against Jesus saying, “Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?” (5:30). Making use of the scribes and Pharisees’ own concept that the publicans and sinners were spiritually ill while they themselves were not, Jesus replied, “They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (5:31-32).

### **A Question about Fasting (5:33-35)**

These scribes and Pharisees asked Jesus, “Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?” (5:33). The Law of Moses



**This photo shows archaeological excavations of housing in Capernaum. Perhaps it was one of these houses where Jesus healed the paralytic borne of four.**

only required one fast day per year (the Day of Atonement); the others were imposed by tradition.

Jesus responded to their question by comparing His presence with his disciples to that of a bridegroom with his friends. While Jesus was with them, they engaged in feasting and celebrating. However, the days would come when Jesus would be taken away from them. Then, His disciples would fast. The days when Jesus was “taken away” were the days of His death and

burial. During that time, the disciples fasted, lamenting His death.

### **The Two Cannot Be Mixed (5:36-39)**

Jesus showed the impossibility of mixing the religion of the Pharisees with Christianity. Mixing the two would be like trying to patch an old garment with a new cloth; the new cloth would shrink and destroy both pieces of material. To mix the two would be like trying to put new wine in old bottles; the new wine would expand and burst

the old bottles, ruining both the wine and the bottles. Hence, it was impossible to combine what Christ was teaching with the traditions of the Pharisees.

To show the manner in which the Pharisees would reject His teaching, Jesus said, “No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he said, The old is better” (5:39). The Pharisees who were used to their traditions would not accept the new teachings which Jesus brought; instead, they preferred the old.

### **Questions**

1. The miraculous draught of fish (vv. 5-11) was a visible demonstration to the apostles. What should they have learned from it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why would a professional fisherman listen to a carpenter tell him how to fish? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What shows the faith of the leper whom Jesus healed (vv. 12-15)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How was the examination of the leper by the priest to be a “testimony” to the priests? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What characteristics did this miracle manifest that make it distinct from those of today’s faith healers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why is Jesus’ example in prayer a good example to follow (v. 16)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When Jesus saw the faith of the palsied man and his four friends (5:20), what did he see? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How do we know that Jesus has power to forgive sins (v. 24)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Did Jesus seek to avoid controversy with the Pharisees and other Jews (v. 22, 30)? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What spiritual characteristics would cause one to forsake everything and follow Jesus (v. 28)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What was intended in the Pharisees’ criticism of Jesus in 5:30? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. Why did Jesus associate with sinners and under what kind of circumstances should we associate with sinners?

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Study Jesus' comments in 5:31-32. Who among men does not "need a physician"? What did Jesus mean by His comment? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What did Peter, James, and John forsake (v. 11)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

15. What did Levi forsake? \_\_\_\_\_

### Matching

From Luke's account of the miraculous draught of fishes, we learn many facts about Peter. Match the fact to the Scripture which shows it.

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|---|--------------|
| ___ 1. Peter was obedient.                            | a. Luke 5:10 |
| ___ 2. Peter was conscious of his sinfulness.         | b. Luke 4:38 |
| ___ 3. Peter was married.                             | c. Luke 5:5  |
| ___ 4. Peter left all to follow Jesus.                | d. Luke 5:8  |
| ___ 5. Peter was a fishing partner of James and John. | e. Luke 5:11 |

### Fasting

The Pharisees fasted \_\_\_\_\_ a week (Luke 18:12). When they fasted, they \_\_\_\_\_ their faces in order that men would know that they \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 6:16). The outward praise \_\_\_\_\_ of men was their \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 6:16). The law of Moses required fasting on the day of \_\_\_\_\_ (Lev. 23:27). Any other fasting was imposed by \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus showed that His disciples would fast when He was \_\_\_\_\_, referring to His \_\_\_\_\_. This places fasting as the natural expression of intense emotions, not something pretended and self-imposed.

### Answering Denominational Error

1. List the miracles of this chapter: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe the characteristics of these miracles. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Which of these miracles will a modern miracle worker attempt? \_\_\_\_\_