

Luke 5:1-11
Background Information

Textual Background:

Jesus has been teaching in synagogues, but was rejected in his hometown, Nazareth where the crowd tried to hurl him off of a cliff. Jesus passed through the midst of them and went to Galilee continuing to teach in synagogues. He works many acts of healing including casting out unclean demons and spirits from people on the Sabbath, not permitting them to reveal who he was and curing Simon's mother-in-law. The crowds wanted Jesus to stay, but Jesus left them citing his purpose to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

Cultural Background:

- **Lake of Gennesaret** – (aka Sea of Galilee) is a large lake in a deep basin of the Jordan valley mostly surrounded by high hills. It is located 60 miles north of Jerusalem. It is known for its sudden and violent storms caused by cold air sweeping down from the vast naked plateaus of Gaulanitis, the Hauran and Mt. Hermon through the ravines and gorges and converging at the head of the lake where it meets warm air.
- **Fishermen** – The strenuous life of fishermen required a strong physique and their speech was sometimes rough. Several methods of fishing were practiced – casting-net, dragnet, and hooks or angles. On the Sea of Galilee, the fishermen used small boats and often fished at night. After each fishing trip, the equipment had to be checked and cleaned in readiness for the next. This trade was their livelihood and often part of a family business.

Old Testament References

- “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” (line 13) – Gen 18:27, Exodus 20:19, Job 42:6, Isaiah 6:5
- “from now on you will be catching men.” (lines 15-16) – Jeremiah 16:16

Greek Definitions:

- **Pressing** – 1945 – to pressure, to be urgent
 - “the crowd was pressing” (line 1)
- **Disembarked**– 576 – to come down from (ie. a boat), to be separated from
 - “the fishermen had disembarked” (line 2)
- **Worked hard** – 2872 – to toil, to grow weary, tired, exhausted, to labor with wearisome effort
 - “we have worked hard” (line 8)
- **Lord** – 2962 – (kyrios) he to whom a person belongs, about which he has power of deciding; title given to God, the Messiah
 - “Depart from me, Lord” (line 13)
- **Astonishment**– 2285 – to render immovable, amazement
 - “astonishment at the catch of fish” (line 14)
- **Seized** – 4023 – to surround, encompass, to take possession of
 - “seized him and all those with him” (line 14)
- **Catching** –2221 – to take alive, capture
 - “from now on you will be catching men” (line 16-17)