

Kids' Chronicle

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BY MELARY GUTMAN

The great catch of fish

Morning was almost over, and the fog had lifted from over Lake Genesaret. Peter and Andrew were in one fishing boat, and James and John were in another. Both boats were anchored near the shore while the four men cleaned and mended their nets.

"I hate just sitting here cleaning nets," Peter grumbled, pulling off a slimy clump of seaweed.

"It seems even worse when you've been fishing all night and caught nothing," Andrew sighed.

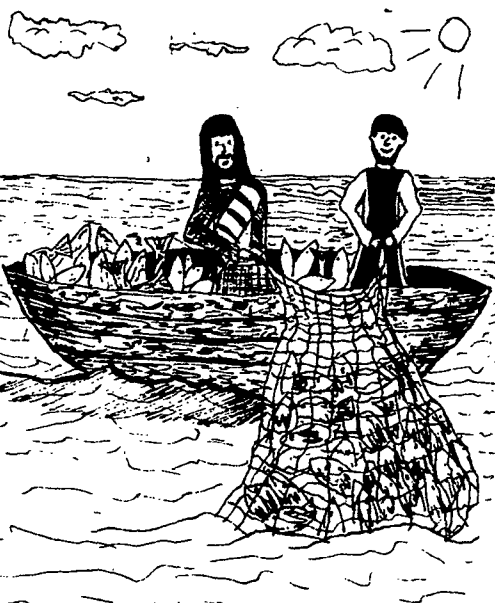
As he worked, Peter began thinking about Jesus, the young rabbi in town. Peter liked being outdoors, but something about Jesus had made him want to stay inside the synagogue and listen to the rabbi talk. Like the other rabbis, Jesus talked about the sacred Scriptures, but his explanations made more sense to Peter.

Jesus also seemed to spend more of his time out talking to the people, instead of studying alone and indoors. Only a few days ago, in fact, Jesus had visited Peter's house. Peter's mother-in-law had been sick with a fever, but after Jesus visited her, she became well and began doing her daily chores.

Within a few days, other people who were sick began asking Jesus to help them, and soon they, too, were healthy again. "It's amazing," Peter thought as he mended the last hole in his nets.

Just then, Peter's daydreams were interrupted by the sound of a crowd coming toward him along the shore. Looking up from his mending, he said to Andrew, "Oh, of course, it's Jesus. People follow him wherever he goes."

Suddenly Jesus called to Peter and Andrew and asked them to let him climb in the boat and to move it a little way from the shore. Jesus then



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

In a few minutes, Peter saw that the nets were very full.

"Andrew," Peter yelled, "pull in the nets!"

The nets were so heavy, that no matter how hard they pulled, Peter and Andrew couldn't get them up over the sides of the boat. "The nets will break soon!" Peter shouted.

Peter and Andrew called ashore to James and John to row out and help them. Together, the four men dragged the nets up over the side of the boat. When Peter's boat became so filled with fish that it was ready to sink, they began to fill the other boat, too.

Even while they struggled, Peter couldn't get his mind off of Jesus. This huge catch had to be a miracle. They were in the presence of God!

Peter suddenly fell at Jesus' feet. "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

Instead, Jesus reached out to Peter. "Don't be afraid," he said. "From now on you will fish for people."

When they got back to shore and unloaded the catch, Jesus turned to the four men. "Come follow me," he told them.

The fishermen gave their boats and their nets to their friends, and left to become Jesus' disciples. They followed him around the countryside as he taught and healed the people.

sat down and began to teach the crowd.

The people on the shore became quiet so they could hear the story Jesus was telling. The story was good, but Peter was hungry and tired. He hoped the rabbi would finish soon so he could get back to shore and get some sleep.

Instead, when Jesus finished teaching, he told Peter, "Lift the anchor and take the boat out into the middle of the lake. Then lower your nets for a catch."

Peter did not want to follow the rabbi's instructions. If he did, he would only have to clean his nets all over again before he could go home to rest.

But Peter did not want to be rude, so he told Jesus, "Master, we have worked all night long without catching anything. Still, if you say so, I will cast out the nets."

So Peter and Andrew rowed out into the lake and lowered their nets.

The Bible Times

31AD — It's unfortunate that the annual Lake Genesaret fishing derby doesn't start until next month. Certainly Peter and his brother Andrew would be favorites to win the contest this year — especially if they were to snag as large a catch as they did yesterday.

According to reports, the two had been out all night fishing and had caught nothing. But mid morning while they were cleaning their nets, the young rabbi, Jesus, joined them on their boat.

When questioned later, Peter said Jesus told him to row out to the deeper waters and to cast their nets. Peter remarked that although it's difficult to catch fish during the middle of the day, he decided to try because of all the recent miracles Jesus had brought about.

Witnesses said the catch was so large Peter and Andrew could not haul in the nets for fear they would break and had to call for help from several friends.

Peter and Andrew then reportedly left all the fish and their boat behind them and went off to follow Jesus. It is believed unlikely the pair will compete in the derby next month.

King Solomon's Wisdom



The path of life is to abide by discipline, and he who ignores correction goes astray.

Proverbs 10:17.

Read More About It: Luke, Chapter 5.

Q & A

1. Why did Jesus pick these fishermen to be his followers?
2. What good qualities did the fishermen show in this story?
3. What miracles of everyday life do we often fail to notice?

Talking to God

Dear Jesus,

Every day you bless me with many gifts and favors, just as you blessed Peter, Andrew, James and John with a great catch. Help me not to forget you, and all that you have done for me.

You have multiplied, O Lord my God,

your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us,

none can compare with You.

Were I to proclaim and tell of them,

they would be more than can be counted.

Psalm 40:5

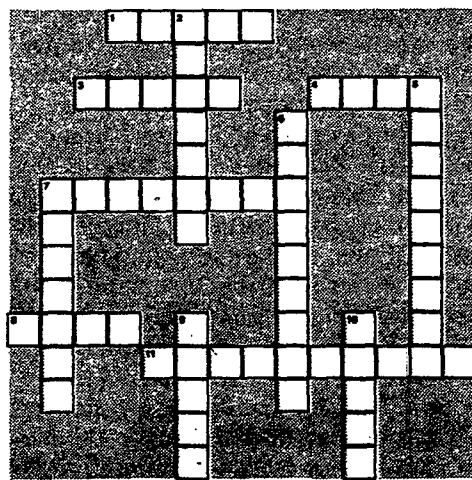
Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the story. Answers on page 2.

ACROSS:

1. He hated cleaning the nets.
3. The fishermen gave these to their friends when they left to follow Jesus.
4. Peter's _____ made him feel unworthy.
7. A word for the wonderful things Jesus did.
8. What Peter and Andrew feared their boats would do.
11. The lake where Peter was fishing.

DOWN:

2. Why Jesus wanted to go out on the lake.



5. An indoor place where Jesus sometimes taught.
6. Another name for Jesus' followers.
- 9 Our Lord.
10. A title for a Hebrew teacher.

Bible Trivia

James and John are brothers. Who is their father? (John 1:11)

Send answers to Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, 1480 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your name and address with your entry.

All entries must be received by April 5, 1993. The winner will receive a prize.

Last month's winner was Kathleen Monahan, who correctly named Simon as the daughter of Herod who requested the head of John the Baptist.

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