

Kids' Chronicle

Jesus calls the fishermen

BY JOE SARNICOLA

Jesus was trying to teach about the word of God, but the crowd was pushing so close to him, that he hardly had a place to stand. He was on the shore of a lake, and he saw fishermen who were washing their nets by two boats. Jesus made his way over to the boats and stepped into the one that was owned by a man named Simon. Jesus asked him if he would float his boat out a short distance, so that Jesus could have some room between himself and the people. Simon agreed, and Jesus was able to continue teaching.

When Jesus had finished talking to the people, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Simon looked at Jesus with a tired expression. He shook his head and said, "Master, we have worked all night and

have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." Simon and his fishing partner lowered the nets into the water.

Immediately, the nets were so full of fish that they were in danger of breaking from the weight. Simon called to his fishermen friends who were back on the shore by their boat. When they looked up from what they were doing, they did not know why Simon wanted them to go

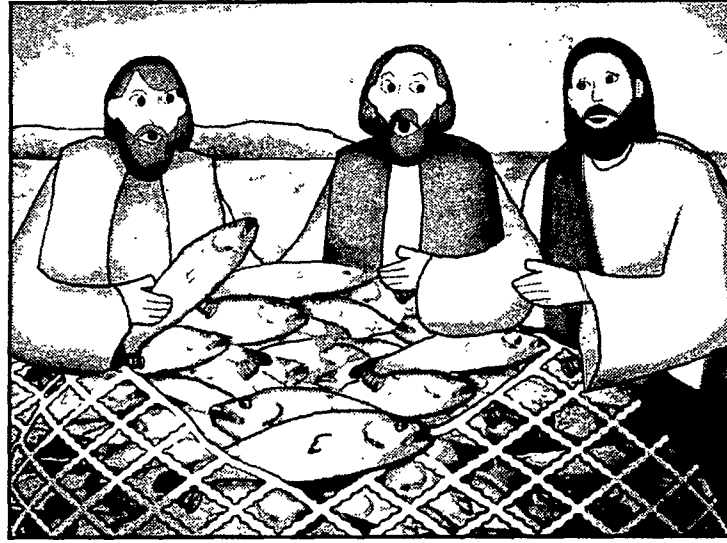


Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

out to where he was. They did not at first believe that there were so many fish there. They, too, had been out all night fishing and had caught nothing.

Simon insisted, between laughing and shouting, and the men sailed out. They could not believe what they saw. Simon's boat was full of fish and the nets were overflowing with more fish. They filled their boat with fish, too. There were so many fish that both boats now were close to sinking from the weight of the fish.

All of the fishermen, Simon and his partner, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee, bowed down in front of Jesus. Simon, who was also called Peter, said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

Then Jesus said, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When the men reached the shore with their boats full of fish, they were no longer fishermen, but followers of Jesus.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Luke 5

Q&A

1. Why did Jesus climb into Simon's boat?
2. What happened when Simon lowered his net into the water?

Bible Accent

Fishing was an important part of the Jews' lives during the time of Jesus. Most of the fish were caught in the Sea of Galilee, which is actually an inland fresh water lake. The fish was either sold fresh or dried for later consumption.

Many Gentiles bought fish from the Jews or traded other goods for them. The Jews were not known for their seamanship on the ocean or as explorers, but they became very skilled at catching the fish in Galilee. Though the Dead Sea was also in Israel, it was too salty for fish to live in. The Sea of Galilee is approximately 150 feet in depth at the deepest point, and was prone to sudden, dangerous storms. Many fishermen lost their lives in these storms. Jesus chose some of his first disciples from the fishermen of Galilee.

St. Paul

Paul, whose birth name was Saul, had the distinct privilege of being born both a Jew and a Roman citizen. He studied under Gamaliel and became a scholarly member of the Pharisees. He believed the written law to be the word of God, and he became of persecutor of Christians, including Stephen, the first Christian martyr.

While on his way to Damascus with companions, Paul was blinded by a great light. Out of this light Paul heard the voice of Jesus say to him, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul had to be led the rest of the way to Damascus.

A man named Ananias was sent by God to find Paul and to lay hands on him. Ananias was at first afraid, because he knew what Paul had done to Christians, but he went and greeted Paul as a brother.

Paul received his sight back and became one of the most dynamic followers of Jesus. His journeys are recounted in the Book of Acts, and he wrote many letters that are part of the New Testament. We honor him on Jan. 25.

Puzzle

Answer the questions with the names of the correct disciples, as told in the Gospel of Luke. The chapter number has been provided as a hint. Answers on page 12.

1. They were Zebedee's sons. (5) _____ a. Peter
2. He was a tax collector. (5) _____ b. Peter, James, John
3. He was Peter's brother. (6) _____ c. James and John
4. He became a traitor. (6) _____ d. Andrew
5. He said Jesus was the Messiah. (9) _____ e. Simon
6. They saw Jesus transfigured. (9) _____ f. Judas
7. Peter was also called by this name. (6) _____ g. Levi (Matthew)

Bible Trivia

In Matthew 16 Jesus told Peter he would build something on the rock, which is what the name "Peter" means. What was it?

Send Answer to: Catholic Courier Bible Trivia, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Please include your name, address and school name. All entries must be received by Feb. 1, 2001. A winner will be selected at random from all the correct entries submitted.

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