

March 26, 2023 – Pastor Kevin Olivier  
**Luke 5:1-11** – “Endeavor to Catch Men”

- A. You don't have to love fishing to appreciate today's text.
- B. The ministry of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah was inaugurated at His baptism (**3:21-22**).
  - 1. The Holy Spirit also led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
  - 2. Immediately after that, **“in the power of the Holy Spirit” (4:14)**, Jesus began His public ministry.
- C. The growing popularity of Jesus became especially evident in today's text. → **vv1-3**.

God wants us to endeavor to catch men, women, & children for the kingdom.	I. <u>THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF JESUS</u> II. <u>THE EVANGELISTIC CALL OF JESUS</u>
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I. THE MIRACULOUS CATCH OF JESUS (vv4-5)

- A. Simon didn't expect much, yet he was willing to go along with what Jesus told him to do.
- B. As we read further, Jesus did far more than Simon expected! → **vv6-7**  
—Each of us should have much greater expectations of what God can do for us & through us. A good commentary on our expectations is **Eph 2:20** which says that God **“is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.”**
- C. What happened next may seem a bit peculiar to some persons. → **vv8-9**
  - 1. I would have wanted to fall down at the feet of Jesus & thank Him.
  - 2. After an enormous catch like that, I would have said, “Please never go away from me Lord.”
  - 3. Why did Simon Peter say to Jesus, **“Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!”**
    - a. This may have been the 1<sup>st</sup> time Peter was aware that Jesus was the **“Christ, the Son of the living God”** a profession Peter made later when Jesus asked him, **“who do you say that I am” (Mat 16:15-17)**.
    - b. In the presence of the holy, Anointed One of God, a sinful man begins to be more aware of his sinful condition.
    - c. As we grow more in our understanding of the gospel of God's magnificent grace we can say like the hymn writer, Henry Francis Lyte:  
“I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;  
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?  
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.”

## II. THE EVANGELISTIC CALL OF JESUS → **vv10-11**.

- A. This event records for us the moment when Jesus officially called Peter, James, & John to be His apostles. Later in this chapter Jesus also called Levi the tax collector who was also known as Matthew.
- B. The office of apostle was an essential, unique calling for the foundation of the NT church. Some might say their calling in **vv10-11** was exclusively for them. It was not.
- C. All those called into modern gospel ministry are likewise to be about the evangelical endeavor to catch or gather in men, women, & children for the sake of the kingdom of God.
- D. As an OPC church, we hold to the title of being Reformed yet according to Scripture we should likewise hold to the title of being evangelical.
1. The verb to evangelize comes from the Greek word “euangelizo” which means to bring or tell good news.
  2. In **Lu 1:19**, the angel said, **“I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, & I have been sent to speak to you & to bring you this good news.”**
  3. Every Christian should rejoice in the good news of the gospel that God the Father sent His only begotten Son to suffer & die to save sinners such as us.
    - a. By faith we believe the redeeming work of Jesus is the greatest news ever told.
    - b. Why wouldn’t we want to tell others about it?
    - c. Each of us can witness the good news to others & support the work of the church as the Word is preached.
- E. The enormous catch of fish established what happened next in **v11** when it says, **“When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything & followed Him.”**
1. This very profitable catch of fish helped to provide for the financial needs of the households of Peter, James, & John.
  2. Later in **1 Tim 5:8** Paul said, **“if anyone does not provide for his own, & especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith & is worse than an unbeliever.”** For these men to leave their families without provision would have been sin.
  3. When we think of our foreign missionaries going off to Uganda or Haiti, **v11** still rings true for them.

Review, further application, & conclusion: