

AN UNFORGETTABLE FISHING TRIP

Have you ever had an unforgettable trip that stands out in your mind? I can remember an unforgettable trip that Jane and I had in Paradise, Louisiana, when we were trapped in hurricane Betsy.

Tonight's lesson is about an unforgettable fishing trip for two sets of brothers who became followers of Jesus Christ. This unforgettable trip was apparently told by Peter to one of his followers, Mark.

While this unforgettable fishing trip is recorded in the synoptic gospels (Matt.4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20), I have chosen Luke's account.

We will examine our lesson text by the following six homiletical points.

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| • Fishing hole | (Lk.5:1) | Lake to specific place on lake. |
| • Fish to catch | Lk. (5:1) | People with PV. |
| • Fishing bait | (Lk.5:2-3) | Categorical bible doctrine. |
| • Fishermen | (Lk.5:4-7) | Jesus and two sets of brothers. |
| • Fishing trip | (Lk.5:8-9) | Jesus recruiting followers. |
| • Fishing tip | (Lk.5:10-11) | Fishing and catching are two different things. |

We will study five aspects of this Unforgettable Fishing Trip.

1. Mark records three fishing tips given by Jesus regarding fishing for men (Mark 1:16-20).

(Mk.1:16, 19) **Jesus sees** the potential in people that others may not see and that we may not even see in ourselves.

(Mk.1:17, 20) **Jesus calls** those that others may not consider calling and that we may not even consider.

(Mk.1:17) **Jesus promises** to make something of us that others may not believe possible and that we may not even think possible.

But we should be encouraged by these four brothers willingness to become someone different, doing something different that others may have never thought possible and that they may never be picked for themselves.

2. These four brothers (Peter, Andrew and James, John) were successful commercial fishermen.

We are told that these successful fishermen had fished all-night and caught nothing. This is important to the heart of why this fishing trip became an unforgettable trip for these brothers.

They will learn an important lesson about fishing for men from this unforgettable fishing trip – “It takes trusting Jesus' word to catch the uncatchable.”

“Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, **but at your bidding**, I will let down the nets.”
(Luke 5:5) [Peter to Jesus]

Tonight, you may feel that your life is an empty net. You have struggled with your life and are tired. Tonight, your attitude towards the word of God should be - “But at your bidding.”

JESUS WILL NOT STEER YOU OUT INTO THE DEEP WATERS OF LIFE WITHOUT GIVING YOU THE CATCH OF YOUR LIFE! (Luke 5:5-6)

3. God is willing to fill your nets and even your boats in order to teach you that His grace is sufficient.

“And when they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish; and their nets began to break.” (Lk.5:6)

“And they signaled to their partners in the other boat, for them to come and help them. And they came, and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.” (Lk.5:7)

God is willing and able to take all of your frustrations and failures associated with empty nets and fill them full with the grace of God (Eph.3:20-21).

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weakness, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.” (2 Cor.12:9)

It is one thing to learn this verse and quite another to live the reality of it (2 Cor.4:6-9, 16-18).

4. Jesus filled their nets and their boats in order to teach them that He would fill their lives with spiritual matters as well like fishing for men (Lk.5:7, 10).

“But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus’ feet, saying, ‘depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!’” (Lk.5:8)

The Lord did this in order for these specific four believers to understand that God is willing to change all our frustrations and failures in life when we are willing to say with Peter, **“at your bidding.”**

“For amazement has seized him (Peter) and all his companions because of the catch of fish which **they** had taken.” (Lk.5:9)

What role they have compared to Jesus in catching these fish? (Lk.5:4-5, 8-11)

5. This unforgettable fishing trip was designed to teach us a lesson about ministry – we are the fishermen and Jesus Christ is the Lord of the catch (Lk.5:1-3, 8-9, 10-11)

The Lord is still fishing for believers who have a heart for faith even if their lives are filled frustrations from empty nets. Who have the child like faith to **“leave everything and follow Him.”** (Lk.5:11) We leave all sort of things in life for a variety of reasons why not for Jesus Christ?

The application of the **faith cycle** to the words of Jesus changed the lives of these four brothers forever. It not only placed them at the perfect place and time on the lake for catching fish but it will put them in the right place and time for catching men for Jesus Christ.

- How many times have we sung, “wherever He leads I will follow.” When what we really means is, “I will follow if it is convenient, or if I thought I could do it, or I would but I am too afraid.”

PROMISE: “Do not fear, from now on you will be catching men.” (Lk.5:10)

- It is your time to say, **“but at your bidding,”** and push out into the deep waters of the ministry fishing for men by faith (Phil.4:13; Rom.4:21).

“Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” (Mark 1:17)