

**“Fishing Season”**  
**by Brother Tom Hanson**  
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*Luke 4:43     ...I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also...*

When Jesus first started out, He was by Himself. He came to John the Baptist to be baptized when he was age thirty. Baptism is where we start, it is our authorization. He was not too big to fulfill all righteousness. He went on to perform many miracles. He preached the Gospel in Nazareth, but other cities needed it.

*Proverbs 11:30     ...He that winneth souls is wise...*

This is what we need to be about: winning souls.

*Luke 5:1-11     ...Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men....*

Jesus had a fame about Him. Already, many people knew who He was, and they were coming to hear Him teach. Some of you have a fame; you have a testimony, but you don't really know how to handle that. Let God use it. Obedience and humility are necessary; just as Jesus obeyed and humbled Himself to be baptized by a man that had committed sin, even though Jesus hadn't, so we should be obedient to God.

*Luke 5:3     ...And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.*

Are we cleaning out our vessels? Do you have that kind of heart? Jesus wants to sit down in your vessel; make room for Him. He's not done teaching, He's still teaching from your vessel.

*Luke 5:4     ...let down your nets for a draught.*

When you are worshipping, singing, praying, catching a haul, God says, “Do it for me, and I will bless it.”

*Luke 5:5     ...we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing...*

To toil means to work. These men have been working all night, and have nothing to show for it. Simon Peter knew who he was talking to, though, so he let down the nets again. I went ice-fishing with Brent Havisto last winter, and I would have been perfectly happy to sit around a hole in the ice and share about the goodness of God, but Brent is a fisherman, and he wanted to catch some fish. He had this device that showed where the fish were, and he was trying to show me, “See? That's where the fish are!” and he was all excited, but, I was thinking, “They're just bluegill, basically glorified goldfish.” Brent is the type of person, though, he doesn't like to put that much effort into something

without accomplishing anything. I'm sure that's the way that these fishermen in the Bible felt.

*Luke 5:5 ...nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.*

Simon Peter was beginning to turn, now. He doesn't see any point to it, but, because of Who told him to, he'll do it. Because of this, he got a great triumph, a victory. If we are as obedient, God can move through a lot of lives.

*Luke 5:7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship...*

If you look up the word 'communion' in the dictionary, the first thing it says is partnership. We are partners with Jesus, which is not at all to say that we are equals with Jesus, but, if we allow Him to lead our lives, then we have a working relationship. Simon Peter had partners. He had a nucleus about him, and those people turned out to be Peter's ministers. There are people that you work with that need the same thing. Ministry is happening. You came to church; the fish are coming in. Jesus is changing lives.

*Luke 5:8 ...Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.*

Peter recognized his own sin, and he was honest about it. We all have sin. 1 John 1:8 says, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

*Luke 5:9 For he was astonished...*

There are two meanings for the word translated as 'astonished,' *περιέχω*. One of them is, "to *hold all around*, i.e. *include, clasp*." So these men are locking arms. Sometimes we need to lock our arms in ministry and stand together just to face what we have to face.

*Luke 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee...*

James and John would later on become known as the sons of thunder (Mark 3:17). They were Simon's partners. Also, in this verse, it shows that Jesus recognized who the leader of these men was. You notice that he spoke to Simon. The Word of the Lord shall not return void (Isaiah 55:11). All of these men walked away from their jobs, forsaking everything, and followed Jesus. Jesus came in and changed their lives.

### **What does it take to fish today?**

First, you have to get a license.

*Matthew 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them...*

This was after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He's telling them that they can't just stay in one spot.

*Acts 2:38*      *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you...*

Peter knew who that name was. Three thousand people got baptized that day (Acts 2:41); they got their license. You need to be baptized to have the blood applied to your life, to put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). The license is spiritual: save yourself first, and then you can share with others.

Second, you need fishermen. There's a lot of on-the-job training for this. You have to get your feet wet and just get out there and fish. Just minister and work with people. The word, 'evangelist' simply means a preacher of the Gospel. The first person referred to as an evangelist was Philip (Acts 21:8), but Philip didn't have any special training.

Third, you need water.

*John 4:10-14* ...**a well of water springing up into eternal life...**

Nobody knows water like a fish. Some people have been swimming around in religious waters that are polluted. Some people are just swimming around in bad water, and they know it.