

The Best Fish Story

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Friend of Jesus / Fishing / Luke 5:4–7

Among those who fish, exaggeration seems to be common. For some, the big fish gets a little longer each time the story is told. It would be easy for skeptics to write of this story as purely c of fishermen but we will see this is not your typical fish story.

Among those who fish, exaggeration seems to be common. For some, the big fish gets a little longer each time the story is told.

Some fishermen seem to compete for the greatest stories, 1 uping each other.

In a context like this, the temptation to make the story a little more exciting is often too hard to ignore.

It would be easy for skeptics to write of these stories as purely exaggeration of fishermen but we will see this is not your typical fish story.

- Jesus met his disciples
 - at the lake
 - time and again.

- Each time
 - profound meaning
 - **Call of God.**
- We imagine
 - Jesus called
 - disciples once.
- Not Biblical Story...
- Some,
 - like Peter
 - called more than once.
- Peter
 - at least 4 times!!!
- John the Baptist
- Follow me
- Great catch

- Taxes
- Second Great Catch.

The First Invitation

- First one
 - came at river
 - near John Baptist.

[John 1:35-42](#) (ESV)

The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

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Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and you will see.”

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So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.

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He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter).

- Two disciples
 - Andrew
 - John
- Did Jesus call them
 - Did they call themselves?
- He called them?
 - How?

“Come and See”

- Once they saw
 - they believed.
- Left to

- call others.
- Each first called
 - their own brother.
- Andrew -> Simon
- John -> James

John 1:40-42 ESV

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- Brought him to Jesus....
- Jesus renames him
 - Peter
 - rock
 - stone

The Second Invitation

[Matthew 4:18-22](#) (HCSB)

As He was walking along the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. “Follow Me,” He told them, “and I will make you fish for people!” Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

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Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and He called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Him.

- Long night
 - cleaning up
- Almost off shift
 - Jesus comes,
 - two words:

“Follow Me”

- Respond Immediately
 - not first introduction
 - leave nets and go.
- Not yet,
 - living with Jesus
 - full-time.
- Because,
 - next story,
 - back at lake...

The Third Call

[Luke 5:1-3](#) (ESV)

On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake,

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but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting

into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

- Where is Peter?
 - what is he doing?
- Hadn't Jesus already said:
 - "Follow Me"?
 - "Fish for Men"?
- Why was he fishing?
 - Peter had family
 - Mother-in-law
 - wife
 - kids?
- Working with Jesus
 - didn't pay well.

- Not complete confidence
 - to follow completely.
- How will I
 - provide for family...?

Luke 5:4-5 ESV

And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.”

- Sermon over,
 - (for people)
- New sermon
 - (for peter)
- Let's go fishing
 - Jesus not fisher
 - carpenter.
- Fishing with nets

- nighttime
- daytime...
 - bad idea
 - tired
 - nets clean...

“But at your word”

- Word of God
 - often hard
 - often odd
 - often unique
 - DO IT!
 - “at your word”

Luke 5:6–7 ESV

And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

[Luke 5:9-10](#) (ESV)

For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon...

- Fishermen
 - astonished....
- Life work
 - see it all...
- This was
 - no typical fish story
 - impossible!!!!
 - miracle!!!!
- Peter convicted:

Luke 5:8 ESV

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

- Peter knew

- struggling with faith
- struggling with trust
- struggling with self
 - why you calling me???
- Some here today
 - don't feel worthy.
- Listen,
 - Peter wasn't
 - You aren't
 - **He wants you anyway!!!**

[Luke 5:10](#) (ESV)

And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

- Do not be afraid.
 - Afraid of what?

- No money
- Provide for family
- Not good enough
- **Don't be afraid.**
- Some here today,
 - want to follow
 - scared to
 - "part-time"
 - trust God
 - fear self.
- He called you.
 - You Job:
 - Follow...
 - Fish for Men!

Luke 5:11 ESV

And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

- Followed full-time

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Another Wake Up Call

[Matthew 17:24-27](#) (ESV)

When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma tax went up to Peter and said, “Does your teacher not pay the tax?” He said, “Yes.” And when he came into the house,

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Jesus spoke to him first, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tax? From their sons or from others?” And when he said, “From others,” Jesus said to him,

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“Then the sons are free. However, not to give offense to them, go to the sea and cast a hook and take the first fish that comes up, and when you open its mouth you will find a shekel. Take that and give it to them for me and for yourself.”

- Jesus says
 - I’m God

- I don't pay taxes...
- But,
 - stumbling block
 - pay taxes?
 - How???
- Go fishing.
 - Jesus called him
 - from fishing...
- Go back to lake
 - for another lesson.
- Last lesson?
 - God provides...
- This lesson?
 - same.

- Crazy Fish Story...
 - In mouth
 - What coin?
 - Shekel...
- What is it worth?
 - 4 drachmas!!!
 - exact amount
 - not too much
 - not too little
 - exact tax!
- Lesson
 - Just follow
 - I'll provide
 - last minute
 - in difficult times
 - hardship

- looks to fail
- trust me....

The Final Call

- Peter followed
 - pride
 - passion
 - zeal
 - sometimes too much

[Mark 14:27-31](#) (ESV)

And Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away, for it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter said to him, “Even though they all fall away,

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I will not.” And Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” But he said emphatically, “If I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And they all said the same.

- Peter rejects prophecy
 - I will not deny you!
 - Everyone but me!
- It happens as Jesus says:

[Luke 22:58–62](#) (ESV)

And a little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not.” And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, “Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean.”

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But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about.” And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter.

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And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

- Peter proud
 - now broken.

- Faith in self
 - faith is broken.
- Did not trust
 - words of Jesus
- Trusted in
 - self will.
- Bitterly Disappointed.
- Lesson for us,
 - trust Jesus
 - not self.
- We will fail
 - He will Not!
- Peter see
 - Jesus die

- Failure
- Gives up.

John 21:3 ESV

Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

- Key Idea
 - Jesus had called
 - Peter away from
 - Fishing Boat.
- Peter fishes
 - because he
 - gave up and
 - has nothing else.
- Resort to old lifestyle.

- Today,
 - people fish
 - have fun
 - relax
 - clear head
 - get nature.
- Fishermen
 - don't fish
 - for those reasons.
- Carpenter
 - does not do work
 - for fun.
- Floor installer
 - does not do floors
 - to clear mind.

- Paramedic
 - doesn't save people
 - when bored.

- Dentist has
 - other interests
 - than dental work.

- Peter is fishing
 - because
 - he gave up!

- Gave up on
 - Jesus
 - Gospel
 - Fishing for Men.
 - Failure.

- Goes fishing

- even worse...
- failure at that too...

[John 21:4-6](#) (ESV)

Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, do you have any fish?”

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They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in, because of the quantity of fish.

- Should have know
 - who it was...
 - (Same Words)

John 21:7 ESV

That disciple whom Jesus loved therefore said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he was stripped for work, and threw himself into the sea.

- Previously said
 - “Depart from me”

- Probably says
 - same thing again...

John 21:10–11 ESV

Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, 153 of them. And although there were so many, the net was not torn.

- None go to waste
 - (feeding of 5000)
- Eat Breakfast
- Talks to Peter:

John 21:15 ESV

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.”

- Peter said
 - “all other will

- deny you
 - but not me!”

- Jesus says:
 - “do you love me more than all the others?”

- Ouch,
 - rub it in...

- Humility Peter says,
 - “you know...”

- Jesus responds
 - “Feed my lambs”

- 3 denials
- 3 Feed my lambs
- 3 Calls by the lake

- Peter had
 - given up.
- Jesus says
 - just started
- “go back”

"Fish For Men"

- Some here today
 - given up.
- At church
 - in body but
 - not in spirit.
- Jesus says
 - Follow Me
 - Feed my Sheep
 - Fish for Men

Appeal

- Follow Me
- Feed my Sheep
- Fish for Men