

## Cosmic Revolution #3 - Encounter, Challenge, Opportunity - Vocation

### Reviewing the Text

1. Lake of Gennesaret - this could also be the Sea of Galilee or the Sea of Tiberias
2. Washing their nets: after each period of fishing, the nets were washed, stretched and prepared for use again.
3. Sat Down: this made a perfect arrangement, removed from the huge crowds and near enough to be seen and heard
4. Nets began to break/boats began to sink - significance?
5. Fell on his knees/Go away from me Lord! - covered below
6. Astonished - what is this about? See below
7. Don't be afraid - why would these men be fearful, of what?
8. Catch men - what does this mean? How does this happen?
9. Left everything and followed him - In John's gospel we see these men with Jesus (Jn 1:40-42, 2:1-2). Matthew and Mark also have this in their accounts but at a different time in the morning.

### Questions for Consideration/Pondering

1. What gets your attention about this meeting of Jesus with Simon: happenstance but terrific, not a coincidence, Jesus trusted nearly a stranger to help him, how Jesus showed his interest in Simon's work?
2. Picture yourself as Simon. What are you thinking, doing and feeling in vrs. 1-3? Why did he go along with Jesus' request?
3. If you had been Simon Peter what would you have done: what Peter did, made some excuse, carefully tell Jesus to stick to his preaching, suggest a better time when the fish were biting, did this grudgingly, wondered, "Who is this guy anyway? Why should I pay attention to him and do what he says?"
4. When they caught all those fish, what did Peter feel: overjoyed, terribly sorry about what he had said to Jesus, shocked, in awe?
5. What is beginning to dawn on Simon about Jesus?
6. When Simon said to Jesus, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man?" What did he mean? Options: I am embarrassed for thinking I knew more about fishing than you, I am really uncomfortable being around you because of my sinful life, I know you are all that you say you are but I'm not ready to follow you like you ask me to, stop bugging me, if I do this it will mean dramatic changes and I don't think I have it in me?
7. They left everything and followed him - Why?: they wanted Jesus as a new fishing partner, they just followed him on blind faith, they were really confused

and needed time to figure out this guy, they were intrigued by his request, they were after a quick economic fix, they knew he was the Messiah?

8. Compared to Simon's call, how have you experienced God's calling: tame and passive, frank, confusing, intellectual, crazy, intrigued, unsure?
9. In your own "fishing business" now, how do you see Jesus?: interesting but not captivating, a great business partner, the real boss, one voice among many?
10. What is the condition of your spiritual boat today: sinking, leaking, out for repairs, dead in the water, under full sail on a great day, off course, battered by a harsh storm?
11. Where is Jesus in relationship to your spiritual boat: on the shore, building a fire for cooking, swimming out to meet me, climbing aboard, in the boat but passive, helping with casting out the nets, pulling in the catch, directing me what to do and how?
12. How does Jesus' idea of "put out into deep water and let down your net for a catch" feel: frightening, insane, misguided, for someone else, I've been ready for this, ok but I need supportive friends, I'm ready for the adventure, really confused about what he is asking/what he expects from me/what he wants?
13. What will need to happen for you to take him seriously and follow his lead: time to think about it, support from others, a kick in the pants, lots of prayer, it's time to get off my duff, help me take the narrow path, I really don't know?