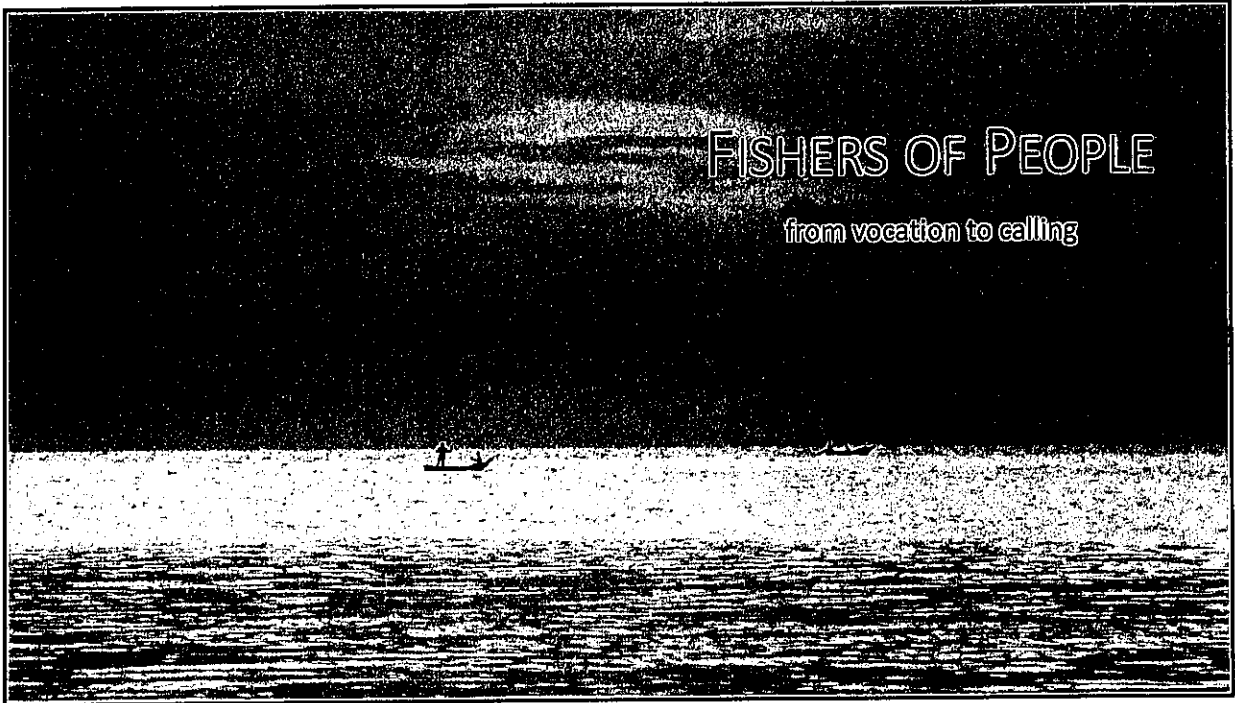


# FISHERS OF PEOPLE

from vocation to calling





<sup>35</sup>The following day John was again standing with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>As Jesus walked by, John looked at him and declared, "Look! There is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup>When John's two disciples heard this, they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup>Jesus looked around and saw them following. "What do you want?" he asked them.

They replied, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

<sup>39</sup>"Come and see," he said. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon when they went with him to the place where he was staying, and they remained with him the rest of the day.

<sup>40</sup>Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of these men who heard what John said and then followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup>Andrew went to find his brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means "Christ").

<sup>42</sup>Then Andrew brought Simon to meet Jesus. Looking intently at Simon, Jesus said, "Your name is Simon, son of John—but you will be called Cephas" (which means "Peter").

John 1:35-42

**First-Century Israel  
at the Time of Jesus  
AD 33**

www.bible.ca/maps  
Steven Rudd, 2023



- Judea – John the Baptist’s disciples, Andrew and John, follow Jesus. Andrew summons Simon Peter John 1:19-42
- Galilee – Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael John 1:43-51
- Galilee – Wedding at Cana John 2:1-12
- Jerusalem – First temple cleansing, Nicodemus John 3:1-21
- Jerusalem – John the Baptist imprisoned Matt 4:12; Mark 1:14a; Luke 3:19-20
- Samaria – Woman at the well John 4:1-42
- Nazareth, Galilee – Jesus is rejected at Nazareth, moves to Capernaum Matt 4:13-17; Mark 1:14b; Luke 4:14-31a
- Capernaum, Galilee – Heals royal official’s son John 4:43-54
- Galilee – Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be fishers of people Matt 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

*After their first decision to follow Jesus,  
they went back to work.*

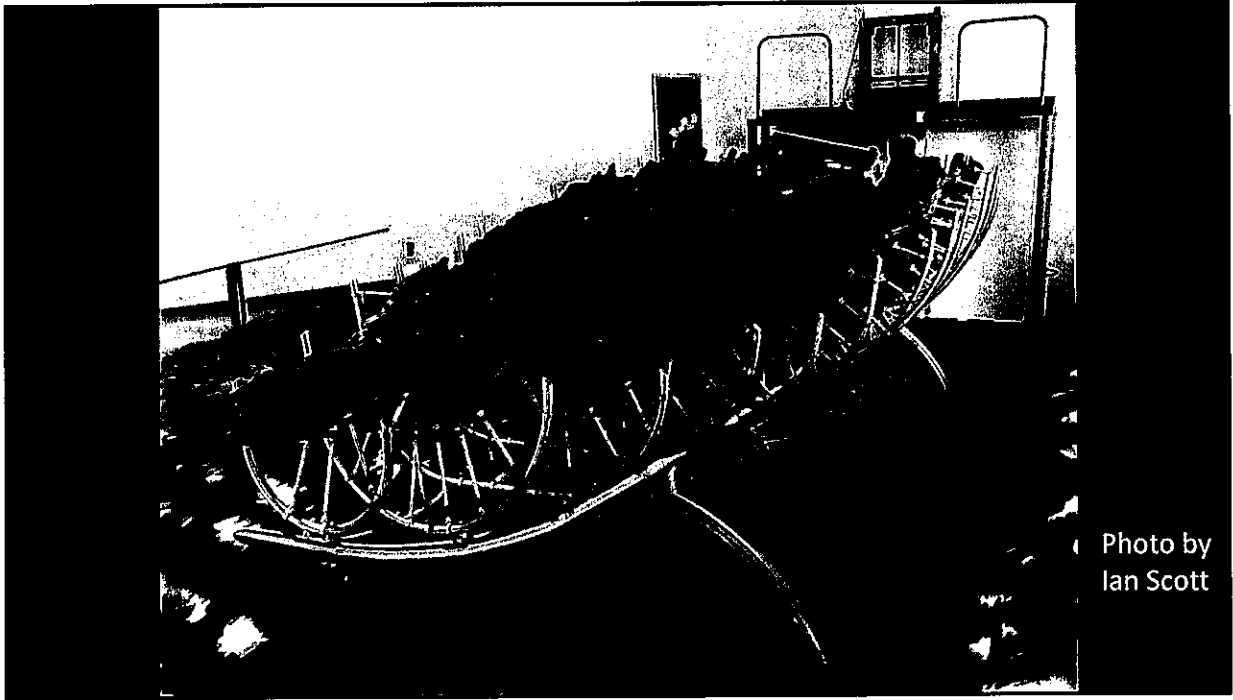


Photo by  
Ian Scott

## Luke 5:1-11



Photo by L. Godvella

1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. 2 He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little distance from the land. And He sat down and continued teaching the crowds from the boat.

4 Now when He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." 5 Simon responded and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down my nets." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to tear, so they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, to the point that they were sinking. 7 But when Simon, Peter, saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" 8 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken. 9 And likewise also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not fear, from now on you will be catching people." 10 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

- ❖ Prejudice. Fisherman stank. Associated with the suspicious abyss.
- ❖ The disciples knew Jesus. That was not enough.
- ❖ Jesus and the disciples were likely neighbors, perhaps friends.
- ❖ They are working in the middle of their stink.
- ❖ Jesus steps into their stinking work.
- ❖ Jesus converts their work boat to kingdom purposes – ~~amplification~~
- ❖ Jesus tells them how to do their job.
- ❖ Jesus blesses their job beyond their capacity.
- ❖ Jesus' presence convicts Peter of his sin and unworthiness.
- ❖ "Fear not!"
- ❖ The promise, the call: from now on, you will catch people.



## more boat experiences

- Jesus steps into Peter's boat.
- Jesus sleeps during storms, and calms storms.
- Peter asks to get out of his boat to walk with Jesus on the water – and fails.
- Peter and the disciples return to fishing.
- Jesus calls Peter out of his boat and sends him to “feed my sheep.”



## progression

- meet Jesus, decide to follow him – but this is not enough
- welcome Jesus into our lives and work, the stink and all
- see Jesus convert our work, our skills, our tools, to Kingdom purposes
- see Jesus triumph over storms and challenges in our work
- see our work as having eternal, kingdom purposes – fishing for people
- in some cases, leave work behind, and step into a whole new lifestyle



## applications

- At Jesus' initiative, we are to invite him in to our work spaces.
- Jesus takes us and our work as we are, and starts there.
- We don't have to be cleaned up to be qualified for his call, his empowering, and his anointing. That comes later. The sequence is first the call, then our response, then the training and qualification.
- Jesus transforms what is earthly, earthy, and even stinky, into something of eternal value.
- Jesus transforms our work from temporal money making to eternal soul saving.
- Jesus lifts our vision from the work at hand — "fishing" — to people. Only people are eternal. Nothing else will last for eternity. All we do in our professions, in our work, in our law practices, that will last is that which affects people.
- Look for surprise divine appointments. Opportunities to share our faith, to pray with clients, to encourage, to give wise, godly, biblical counsel.
- Be alert for "teachable moments," when people are open and curious.
- Salt the conversations.

## applications

◦ **Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Your speech must always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person. Colossians 4:5-6**

- **Make your hearers hungry, thirsty, for more.**
- **Be transparent, vulnerable, and authentic. We are no better, just one hungry person telling another hungry person where to find food. Share your stories, your failures, how God intervened and rescued, how you were encouraged.**
- **See your work, no matter how worldly or mundane, as a divine calling as you minister to the people around you – clients, coworkers, colleagues, vendors and suppliers, could still be a great opposing counsel.**
- **Consider pro bono, Christian legal aid, and public service opportunities:**
  - <https://www.christianlegalsociety.org/cla/>
  - [https://www.christianlegalsociety.org/christian\\_conciliation/](https://www.christianlegalsociety.org/christian_conciliation/)
  - <https://www.peacemakerministries.org/>
  - [https://adlegal.org/?utm\\_source=Bing&utm\\_medium=PPC&utm\\_content=Com](https://adlegal.org/?utm_source=Bing&utm_medium=PPC&utm_content=Com)

**Transformed law practices are not only public service or legal aid. They are all practices, where people are first, and we are open to what the Holy Spirit would do and say through us.**

## questions

- Where are you in this progression?
- How has Jesus been transforming your vocation to His calling?
- What are the divine, eternal, Kingdom purposes of your work and your calling?
- Are you called to leave former things behind and pursue something new?
- Do you hear Jesus saying, "Fear not!"



