

**“Hooked”**

**Luke 5:1-11**

Jan. 23, 2022

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“lake of Gennesaret” – other names:

Old Testament as “Chinneret” or “Kinnereth Sea of Galilee

Sea of Tiberias (Tiberias was a city built on the western shore of the lake).

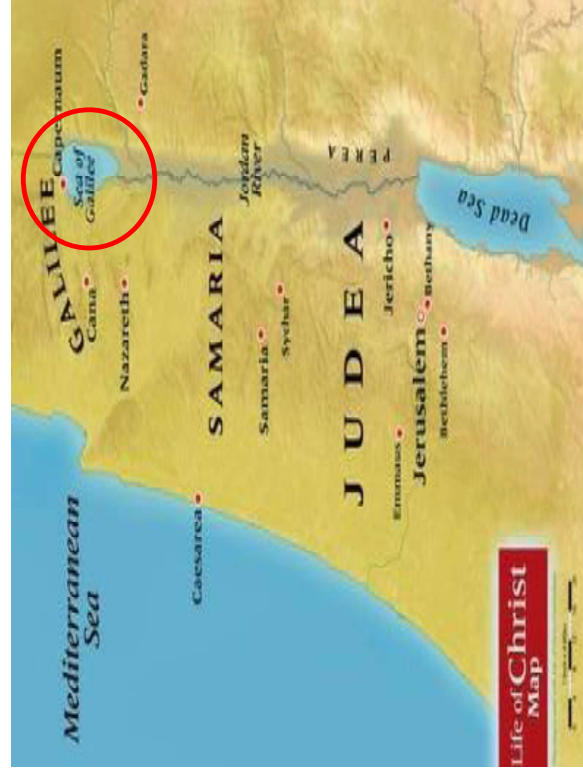
\*During the time of Christ, there were 9 cities around its shores with a total population around 15,000.

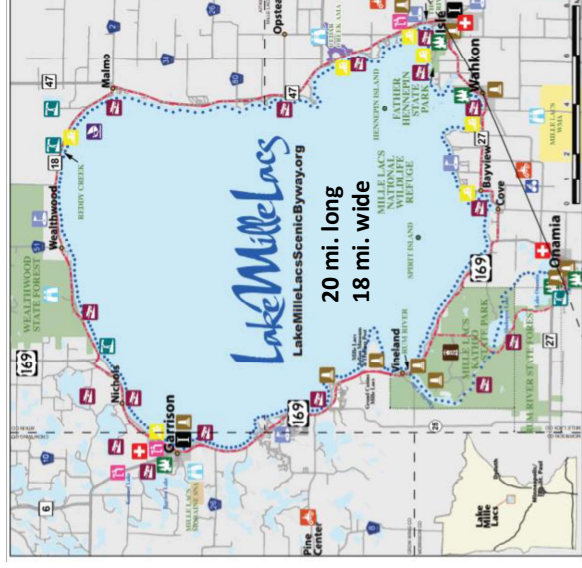
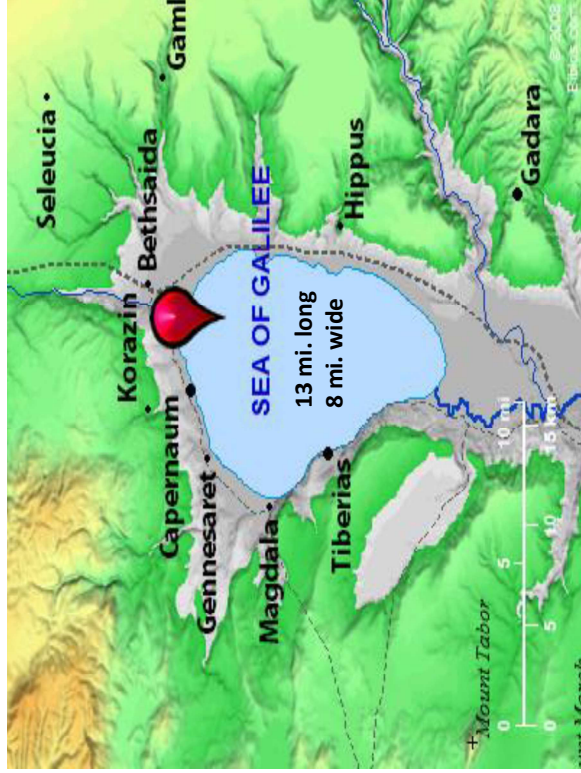
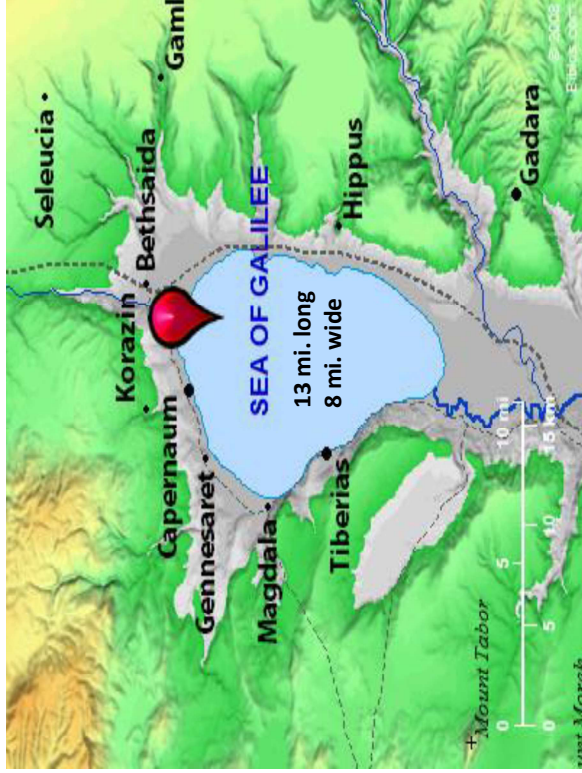
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- Luke is not concerned about sequence or time, only the event that happens.
- “pressing” – ἐπιχειμαίω – to lie upon, be placed on. Same word used when the crowd.s “press” Pilate for a crucifixion.
- “pressing to hear the Word of God.” Wow! If we only had that in the Church today!
- 2 problems: 1. people don’t want to listen. 2. the Word is not taught.





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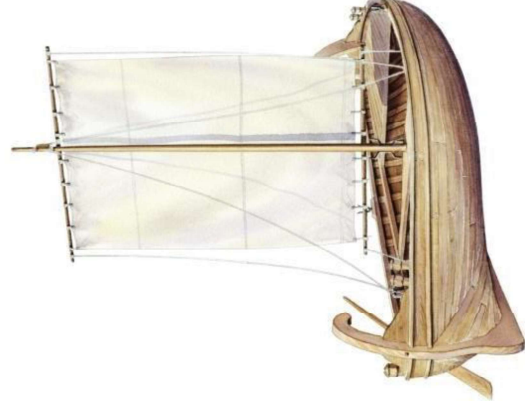
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- The 2 boats: 1 belongs to Simon (Peter) and Andrew and 1 belongs to James and John.
- These 4 men have a fishing business. What does that entail?
  - Gear – boats, sails, nets, salt, and means of transporting the fish to market (Magdala).
  - Hard work – long hours, ruggedness, strength.

### Boat

- Typical boat was 25-30 feet long and 8 feet wide.



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### 3 kinds of nets:

#### The dragnet/seine net.

- Several hundred feet long and as much as 20 feet high,
- Dropped by fishermen from boats several hundred yards from shore, and parallel to it.
- Cork or wood floats kept one edge of the net on the water's surface, while stone sinkers fastened to the other edge pulled it to the bottom.

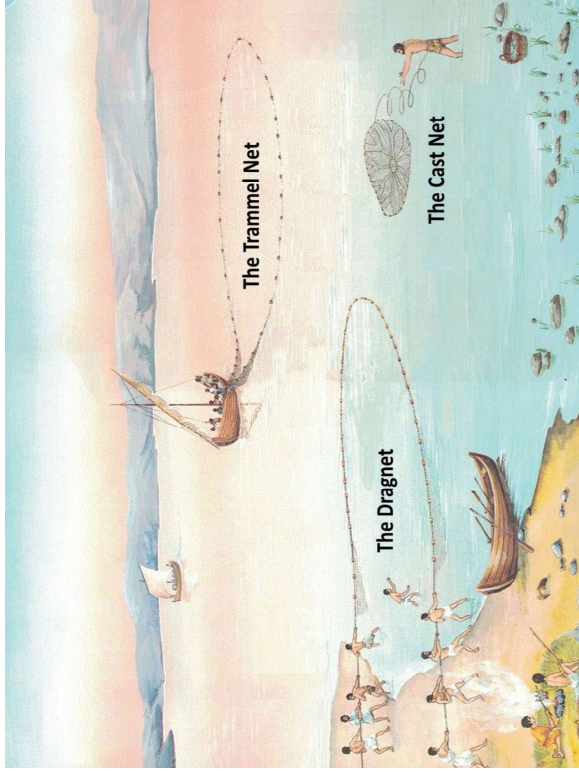
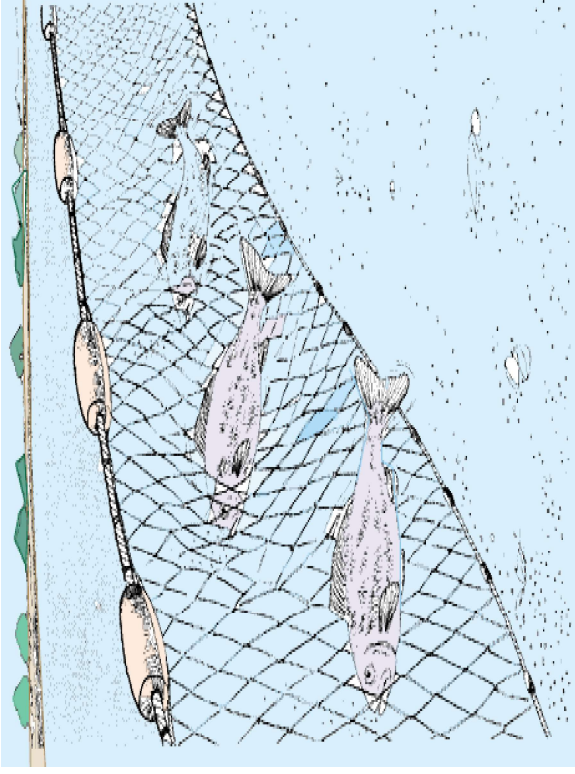
#### The circular cast net.

- Measured up to 25 feet in diameter and was thrown into the water from the shore or a boat. Had weights and would sink and trap the fish.

#### The trammel net.

- Three walls, reinforcing each other with increasingly smaller mesh.
- Usually used with 2 boats, with one circling around.
- Fish passed through the layers until they found themselves caught against the inner wall and eventually became entangled.
- The net was retrieved and the fish extracted. This net was washed in the morning, as it was used at night.

\*Nets were typically used for business but line and hook were also used for a small, quick catch.



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**Biny**, a member of the carp family, was used in Bible lands for feasts and banquets.

**Sardines** are small fish that were caught in enormous numbers.

## Why wash the nets?

1. Rats feeding on debris caught in nets and rats would gnaw through the ropes causing holes.
2. Rot caused by the debris caught in the nets, causing the ropes to rot.
3. Drag caused by the debris on the nets.
4. Vision of the debris in the nets by the fish and therefore would scare them.

- They fish at night. Best time. Fish come into the shallow water to feed at night. It is now morning. Must get the gear ready for the next night. Hot sun of the daytime drives fish into the deeper waters.

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- Simon has another problem with this.
- **"Master"** – chief, boss commander, the one in charge.
- Simon is thinking why this is not going to work:
  1. Caught no fish all night.
  2. Now it is day.
  3. Tired and weary.
  4. Already washed the nets.
  5. You are a carpenter and we are professional fishermen, leave this to us.
- But in a display of obedience and faith, Simon let's down the nets.
- It is at our lowest, weakest point that Christ can work.

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- Jesus got into Simon's boat (by sovereign design).
- Peter is in the boat and has front row seat for the teaching.
- Jesus continues His teaching.
- Water reflects sound waves – excellent acoustics.
- First wooded pulpit – "boatpit".
- It does not matter where you teach from, if the hearts of people are hungry for the Word.
  - a mountain as his pulpit (Mt 5:1), or a house (Lk 5:17 f), or a desert (Mk 8:1, 4), or even a cemetery (Jn 11:38).
  - Jesus had been thrown out of the synagogue, and would soon be banned from them.
  - Where is your "pulpit"? It could be a plane seat, a cafe, a family holiday, your place of work, the schoolroom, a car, an elevator, a stadium, etc.
  - Every place is a fishing boat and a pulpit to catch the souls of men.

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- Jesus ends His Bible teaching time.
- Jesus gives a command. Always has a plan. Always thinking ahead.
- Great setting for teaching.
- But this is strange – 1. It's day. 2. Nets are drying. 3. Must go deep.

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- God is omniscient. He knows where the fish are.

#### **Neh 9:6**

- 6 "You alone are the Lord. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, **The seas and all that is in them.** You give life to all of them
- Suddenly they have found the "honey hole." This is a catch of a lifetime.
- Jesus must have a smile on His face as He is watching this.
- Nets break, fish are flopping everywhere, panic sets in, "What do we do next? We need help!"

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- So an SOS goes out to the other boat.
  - They are not going to be able to drag this net to the shore, so they begin to fill the boats.
  - They begin to sink.
  - The generosity of God. They are weary, but Jesus says, "Come unto me all that are weary and . . ." God is able to do exceedingly above what we can imagine or think.
- 8** *But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"*
- This is too much for Peter. God has invaded his private life and business.
  - Peter has witnessed: casting out of demons, great Bible teaching, healing of his mother-in-law, healing of all diseases of those brought to Him, and now his business.
  - Peter comes to the realization that Jesus is Lord over all, everything, and in light of that he is sinful and not worthy to be in the presence of a holy God.
  - That is what happens when you get to the point where you understand the sovereignty of God over your life – all of your sin floats to the surface.
  - Peter knew that if Jesus could see into the depths of the lake, He could also see into the depth's of Peter's depraved heart!
  - We may look good compared to those around us, but not when compared to Jesus.

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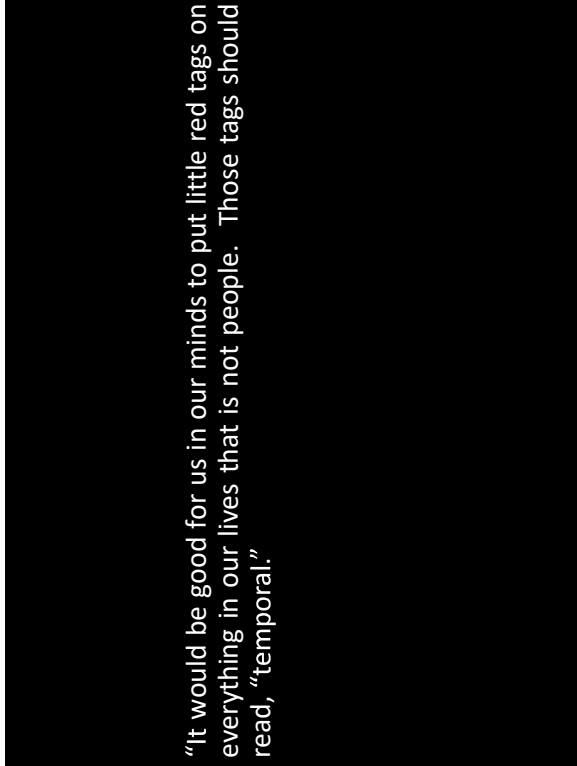
- Everyone was shocked.

**"amazement"** - We are beginning to see this time after time in Luke. Everyone is shocked.

- Are you amazed by the things God is doing in your life?

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“It would be good for us in our minds to put little red tags on everything in our lives that is not people. Those tags should read, “temporal.”

**10 and so 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 men."**

- When we are broken and humble, Jesus will never walk away but will only desire to draw near.

### 1 John 1:9

9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

- And now the purpose for the whole event.

“Peter, I want you to catch men and not fish.”

- Peter would do that on the day of Pentecost, when he netted 3,000 of them. More in Acts 5 and 14.

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### 11 When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

- They got their boats to shore with the catch of their lives.
- They could have:
  - rejoiced in all of the profit they would make.
  - thought of what all of that would buy – a new boat, new nets, a better sail, hire more people, ability to process and sell our own fish, etc.
  - Bragged to everyone of the once-in-a lifetime catch.
- Instead they were transformed by the person of Christ and desired to “walk the same path” that He walked.
- They knew when you have Jesus, you have everything:
  - Victory over temptation, sin, demons, and Satan.
  - Victory over disease.
  - All of your physical and financial needs supplied.

### They were hooked!

### Phil 3:8

8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,

### Application

1. This text is not teaching that those who are most committed to Christ must leave their secular jobs to be His disciples. It all depends on what He has called you to do.
2. Jesus did a miraculous work with the catch of fish. However, the fish didn't jump out of the water onto the shore. Jesus used boats, nets, fishermen, and gear to accomplish the feat.
3. When fishing for men, those who are chosen by God do not leap straight into heaven from unbelief. God uses evangelism, prayer, preachers, teachers, businessmen and women, housewives, students, factory workers, astronauts, athletes, computer programmers, and all other believers to “spread the net” of the gospel, with the result that men and women, and boys and girls would come by faith to Christ and be saved.

“May you keep a tight line”

Life's Short: Fish Hard