1. **Intro:**

1.1. **Leonardo da Vinci** was once at work for a long period of time on a great masterpiece. He had labored long to create this work of art & it was near completion. Standing near him was a young student who spent much of his time w/his mouth wide open, amazed at the master w/the brush. Just before finishing the painting, da Vinci turned to the young student & gave him the brush & said, “Now, you finish it.” The student protested & backed away, but da Vinci said, “Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?”

1.1.1. In this mornings message we learn the necessity of human agency.

1.1.2. A catch of fish that was miraculous. Yet neither the *fisherman*, nor *his boat*, nor his *fishing tackle* was ignored; all were used to take the fishes.

1.1.3. So in the *saving of souls*. - God will even be pleased by the foolishness of our preaching!

1.2. **His Galilean ministry continues:**

1.2.1. Remember the *Galilee* wasn’t technically *Jewish*, but it contained a large Jewish population.

1.2.2. A lot of ministry happened up there though: *Sermon on the Mount*; *Bread of life discourse* (Jn 6:59 in Capernaum synagogue); 25 out of 35 recorded miracles happened in the Galilee region.

1.2.3. The Jews in Judea looked on Galileans w/some *contempt*. They had a *rude accent*, & were not considered sophisticated in matters of religion.

2. **MANFISHING! (1-11)**

2.1. **(1) Pressed** – Here, they pressed to hear him expound the Word of God. **Later**, Luke uses the same word when the crowds “press” Pilate for a crucifixion, as they are tired of The Word!

2.2. **Lake of Gennesaret** – Also, *Sea of Galilee & Sea of Tiberias* (imp. city)

2.2.1. Luke w/his *pin point accuracy* never calls it a sea, the other gospel writers never call it a *lake*. (Plummer)

2.3. **(3) Luke doesn’t follow Mt. & Mrk here & specifically singles out Simon.**

2.4. Here’s the 1st use of a *wooden pulpit*…in the shape of a boat!
2.4.1. “Christ uses Peter’s boat as a **pulpit** whence to throw the net of the Gospel over His hearers” (Plummer).

2.5. **He got into one of the boats** – As the Psalmist said, (Ps.127)

Unless the Lord **builds the house**, they **labor** in vain who build it;

Unless the Lord **guards the city**, the **watchman** stays awake in vain.

Unless Jesus **comes aboard your boat**, you’re paddling up stream w/no oars.

2.6. (4) What a blessing just to know He is interested in us!

2.7. (5) **Master** – used only by Luke & always in addresses to Christ.

2.7.1. **“One standing over another”**. Recognizes Christ’s authority.¹

2.7.2. One who has the right to give orders. (LKGNT)

2.8. **Toiled all night** – Fishermen of the Galilee would fish at **night** when the schools of fish worked there way toward shore to feed on swarms of minnows in the shallower, warmer waters.²

2.9. Maybe this sums up your life so far “we've toiled all night and caught nothing.” – If so, hear Peters answer for this problem!

2.10. **Nevertheless at Your word** – best expression when we **don’t get** God!

2.10.1. Ok to express your **true feelings**, just end with **doing as he commands**.

2.11. **Net?** – Partial obedience? [See **Nets** in vs.4!]

2.12. (8) Jesus overwhelmed not only his **nets** but **Peter himself**!

2.13. He fell on his knees & said, **“Thank you Jesus for these fish!”** Noooo!

2.13.1. No, he begged, “**stay away from me**”, “**I'm sinful!**”

2.13.1.1. “**You're Holy, I’m dirty!**”

2.13.2. He had seen him do **other** miracles, **greater** miracles, but sometimes the **simplest things** bring a person to Christ.

2.13.3. **His heart was touched by God!** – He realizes just who Jesus is!

2.13.4. You, like Peter, might look good next to the smelly fisherman next to you; but when you compare yourself to **Perfect Purity**, all sin floats to the surface. [And, He moves from master to Lord!]

2.13.5. **PTL** – He **doesn't answer** all our prayers & requests!

2.13.6. **PTL** - He is **the friend of sinners**!

---

¹ A.T. Robertson; Luke 5:5
² Richard’s, The Teachers Commentary.
2.14. What humbled Peter? His failure in the pm or his success in the am?  
2.14.1. If success humbles you, then failure will build you up!  
2.14.2. If success puffs you up, then failure will destroy you!³

2.15. (9) Astonished – Lit. “for a wonder held him round”⁴ (It held Peter fast)  
2.15.1. Like being frozen in time.

2.16. (10) Catch men – This is the definite service they would render.

2.17. It means to catch/take alive, not to kill (like vs.9).  
2.17.1. This prophecy came true on Pentecost, where Peter threw his Gospel Net & brought in a great catch of 3000 men-fish!  
2.17.2. They caught live fish & they would die. Now, They will catch dead fish(sinners) & the fish would now truly live!

2.18. Men, like fish, were astray, were to be sought, & were to be caught!

2.19. This word is only used 2 x’s in NT.  
2.19.1. The next time (2 Tim.2:26) “having been taken captive by him (the devil) to do his will.”  
2.19.2. Thus every soul is to be taken alive by someone.  
2.19.2.1. By Christ to eternal life; or by Satan to eternal death.  
2.19.2.2. By Christ's Net into His boat; or by Satan's Web into his sticky snare.

2.20. It is likely there were 7 fishermen in the disciple band (Jn.21:1)  
2.20.1. Fishermen know how to work together; they don’t give up easily; they have courage; & they labor diligently.⁵  
2.20.2. They have the needed qualities: watchfulness, observation, patience, earnestness, perseverance, readiness, strength, & power.⁶

2.20.3. These are ideal qualities for disciples of Jesus Christ.  
2.20.4. The fact that these men were willing to go out again after washing their nets is proof that they were not dismayed by a night of failure.

2.21. What a simple challenge…“follow me” (Mt.4:19).

2.22. (11) Forsook all & followed Him – Then & There.  
2.22.1. This was truly the Turning-point in these men lives!

2.23. 3 Stages for these chosen men:  
2.23.1. [1] Discipleship - They become His disciples about 1 yr ago.  

---
³ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.
⁴ A.T. Robertson; Luke 5:9
⁵ Warren Wiersbe; Outlines in the NT.
⁶ Griffith Thomas pg.98

2.24. This group of business men ought to cause other business men & women to pause & see if Jesus is calling them to do likewise!
2.24.1. Oh, & maybe not even leave there business, but maybe redirect it to Him? Maybe doing it in a foreign land for the sake of ministry purposes? Bringing Jesus into its profits?

2.25. When Jesus forgives & transforms a sinner, he says the same thing to each new creation, “from now on, life will be different!”

2.26. They responded w/a “don’t-look-back faith” that Jesus was looking for!
2.26.1. Peter/Andrew…“left their nets”; James/John…“left their father” Mk1:20; & next week Matthew…“will leave his booth” (5:28).

2.27. We cannot follow Jesus until we are willing to forsake our own plans.
2.27.1. This doesn’t mean He will always take you out of your present job & put you on staff at a church or on the mission field!
2.27.2. But the question is “Have you dared ask?”…yes you! - Not the guy next to you…YOU!
2.27.3. “God doesn’t call the qualified, but qualifies the called!”
2.27.3.1. But He requires Total Commitment!!!
2.27.3.2. A call to obedience, confession, & commitment!
2.27.4. 1st He called Peter to cut the ties from shore to go out into the deep. Next, to cut the ties of the past…for good!

2.28. Q: What might He call you to leave on the beach?
2.28.1. Peter finally got “the catch of a life time”, but not even that mattered, he left that also!

2.29. Q: What did God do to get your attention to Him? - When you realized who Jesus was did you have an acute awareness of your sin? - What changes in your life can be traced back to your conversion?

2.30. Here are 4 fishermen that got caught in Jesus’ net!
2.30.1. He calls ordinary men, walking an ordinary life.
2.30.2. “Give God your ordinary life(you, just as you are now) & God will give you back, an extraordinary calling.”
2.30.2.1. Notice the “I will make you!!!”
2.30.3. I love that their 1st titles aren’t “bishops, pastors, elders, or deacons”,…but “fishers of men”!

7 YWAM director Lauren Cunningham
8 Kent Hughes; pg.19
2.30.4. **Without Jesus:** Night of toil; Nothing taken; Nets empty!
**With Jesus:** Full Nets; Full ship; Full hearts!  

2.31. I’ll make you fishers of men - “If the Bible is a missionary book, the people of the Book are charged with being a missionary people.”

2.31.1. **Q:** How do you presently fish for men? Women? Children? Elderly?

2.31.2. I have fished all my life! - I have learned I must **take time** to go fish.
I must have a **hook**. I must **fresh bait**, or a **lure**. I must be **patient**.
I must never **yell** at the fish for not jumping on my hook. Sometimes I’ve had to **go back** to the same pool a few times before I can catch a certain one. Sometimes I’ve tried & tried & have had to walk away to **no avail**. Sometimes I’ve tried others **techniques** & they haven’t worked for me personally. Sometimes I’ve learned awesome techniques that I am indebted to friends for showing me them.

2.31.3. As Thomas Boston (in 1699) the famous ‘Scottish Puritan’ once depicted it as **“The art of Manfishing”**.

2.31.4. **Our Nets?** The Word of God; Our personal story!
**Our Bait?** Loving words & deeds!

2.31.5. As Jesus has been painting Himself into people’s lives & preparing them for salvation he says, “Now, you finish it.” - “Will not what I have done inspire you to do your best?”

2.32. Jesus will repeat this miracle at an important time for an important person “Peter” & for his restoration (Jn.21).

2.32.1. And will tell him again to **Follow me**, even unto death!

2.32.2. **Follow me** in **Discipleship**, in **ministry**, in **death-to-self**, in **death itself if I require it**!

2.32.3. It seems Christ’s Clarion Call is **“Excelsior!”** (latin, **Higher!**)  

2.32.3.1. Henry Longfellow’s Poem: **Excelsior**! (a young man in a deplorable state climbing a mountain in the dead of winter) See Last page!

2.33. **Prayer:**
Lord we **obediently launch out** now into the deep of our community!
Help us to **let down** our gospel nets, & **use** the bait of our lives!
We **fall** at your Son Jesus’ knees, & **own** our own sinfulness!
We **forsake all**, & chose to **follow you** & you alone!

2.34. **Invitation:** The call to **obedience**, **confession**, & **commitment**!

---

9 Griffith Thomas pg.103
**Excelsior**  
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The shades of night were falling fast,  
As through an Alpine village passed  
A youth, who bore, 'mid snow and ice,  
A banner with the strange device,  
**Excelsior!**

His brow was sad; his eye beneath,  
Flashed like a falchion from its sheath,  
And like a silver clarion rung  
The accents of that unknown tongue,  
**Excelsior!**

In happy homes he saw the light  
Of household fires gleam warm and bright;  
Above, the spectral glaciers shone,  
And from his lips escaped a groan,  
**Excelsior!**

"Try not the Pass!" the old man said:  
"Dark lowers the tempest overhead,  
The roaring torrent is deep and wide!  
And loud that clarion voice replied,  
**Excelsior!**

"Oh stay," the maiden said, "and rest  
Thy weary head upon this breast!"  
A tear stood in his bright blue eye,  
But still he answered, with a sigh,  
**Excelsior!**

"Beware the pine-tree's withered branch!  
Beware the awful avalanche!"  
This was the peasant's last Good-night,  
A voice replied, far up the height,  
**Excelsior!**

At break of day, as heavenward  
The pious monks of Saint Bernard  
Uttered the oft-repeated prayer,  
A voice cried through the startled air,  
**Excelsior!**

A traveller, by the faithful hound,  
Half-buried in the snow was found,  
Still grasping in his hand of ice  
That banner with the strange device,  
**Excelsior!**

There in the twilight cold and gray,  
Lifeless, but beautiful, he lay,  
And from the sky, serene and far,  
A voice fell, like a falling star,  
**Excelsior!**