



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1961 ~ Fishers of Men.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

A man stood on the sloping sandy beach of the Australian shoreline with his fishing rod in his hand. He'd caught a good-sized fish for his meal that night. To keep it alive while he tried to catch another, he had placed it in a rock pool that the sea water only reached at full high tide.

Imagine his surprise and disappointment when, some time later, he turned around to see a sea eagle struggling valiantly to fly off with his fish! There was nothing the man could do as he watched his meal fly away into the sky. And so it is with fishing. Some days, the fish are there; some days they're not. The fisherman is not guaranteed a fish reward for his hours of labour casting into the sea.

In today's Bible Adventure, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew had not caught any fish all night. The Lake of Galilee or as it has sometimes been called the Tiberias or Kinneret, is a pear-shaped freshwater lake through which the Jordan River flows. Jesus based his ministry at the city of Capernaum on the north side of this lake.

Two of Jesus' other disciples, James and John, both sons of a man called Zebedee, were also fishermen living there. Zebedee had a substantial fishing business and he hired men to help with all the work. The lake held many varieties of fish and at times, the fish were caught in commercial quantities.

At the time of today's drama, Jesus didn't have His disciples beside Him all the time. Neither had He called all His disciples to full-time ministry. Simon had family responsibilities and bills to pay, so he had to keep on catching fish. Not catching any fish at all was a serious failure he didn't want to think about.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

This miraculous catch of fish is recorded only in Luke's Gospel, Chapter 5. Jesus used fishermen's boats a number of times as a teaching platform, which enabled more people on the shoreline to hear what He was saying. Luke says that Jesus sat down before commencing to teach the people.

In our world, speakers who are addressing a crowd stand up, and the audience expects them to stay standing all this time until they have finished. But in the Bible, it is recorded a number of times that Jesus sat down to teach.

When Jesus had finished teaching, He asked Simon Peter to take the boat out into deep water and let the net down for a catch.

Simon Peter explained to Him that they'd fished all night and caught nothing. Although Simon Peter may have thought he knew more about fishing than Jesus did, he did what Jesus commanded. The Lord honoured Simon Peter's obedient faith. No failure is final if you come to the Lord Jesus for a new start.

Simon Peter was amazed and bewildered by the number of fish they then caught. He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." Maybe Simon had obeyed Jesus with his hands but still had doubts in his mind? We can all do this acting as though we're faithful Christians but remain disbelieving in our hearts that our prayers will work. Jesus didn't rebuke Simon Peter but instead, told him not to be afraid. Jesus said that from then on, the disciples would catch men for the Kingdom of God.

There are a number of times in the Gospels where Jesus performed a miracle and the people were so surprised and amazed that they could hardly take it in. Many of Jesus' miracles involved healing people to ease their sick bodies. Some were control over evil spirits dwelling in a person while others were changing something in nature. Certainly the numbers of healed people were many and no one should have doubted Jesus' power to do good. Some people started asking didn't this make Him a candidate for the Messiah role?

There's a second incident recorded in the Scriptures when the disciples caught no fish at all while out in their boats. In John's Gospel, Chapter 21, the risen Lord Jesus visited the disciples in the upper room behind closed doors. Thomas was present at that time and Jesus challenged him about his unbelief regarding Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

After this, the disciples went out fishing. Hours later in the night, Jesus stood on the seashore and called out to them, asking if they'd caught any fish. They shouted back "No!" Jesus then told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat and they would find some. They did just this and the net became so full of fish, they couldn't pull it in – it needed to be dragged to shore by the boat. When counted, there were 153 large fish in the net but amazingly, the net wasn't broken.

This miracle was the third time Jesus had showed Himself to the disciples since rising from the grave. This big catch of fish certainly had an effect on Simon Peter. He put on his fisherman's coat and jumped into the sea and swam ashore the short distance.

There on the shore, Jesus had bread and was cooking fish over a fire. He invited the disciples to come ashore and eat.

After they had, Jesus challenged Simon Peter about his trust in Him. He asked Simon Peter if he truly loved Jesus. We can feel for Simon Peter at this point, as we all make mistakes and how painful it can be to put things right later on.

How much do we love Jesus? Some of us might be embarrassed at how many times we've been disloyal to Jesus in our minds and behaviour towards other people. There are no secrets we can keep from the Lord. He knows everything. It's always better to confess our failures to Him rather than keeping quiet about them.

The opposite of 'unbelief' is 'faith'. How can we grow our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus more? Faith is grounded in God's Word. Your faith will grow stronger as you study the Bible. Spend time in reflection on the truths about who God is, His guidelines for your life and how He wants to do His work on earth through you.

The strongest faith is not one based on physical senses but on spiritual conviction. There's a spiritual element to the world that you cannot see, but it is very real. Your faith will become stronger the more you allow the Holy Spirit to strengthen your spiritual discernment.

Always be wary of preachers who stand up and criticize Bible characters. This fishing trip took place before the Holy Spirit had ever been given to Jesus' disciples. The Bible tells events as they happened, bad things and all. The mistakes people back then made are recorded for us to learn by in this day and age.

Simon Peter grew in his character and became the leader of the newly organised church. What will all fault-finding preachers say to Peter when they meet him in heaven? Their criticism can give the subtle idea that they think that they are better than Simon Peter was.

In recent times there have been books written about the different types of personalities. Simon Peter is often listed as a classic example of one of these types. But no matter what type of character we've started life with, if we submit ourselves to God's Holy Spirit continually, He'll develop us into gracious faithful workers fit and ready for our next life in heaven.

If you already love the Lord and a certain sin keeps getting the better of you, ask the Lord Jesus to take it away and fill you with the fruit of His Holy Spirit. Fill your mind with thoughts of heaven and fix your eyes on Jesus. His character traits are: love, joy or gladness, peace, patience (or even temper or forbearance), kindness, goodness (or giving beneficial help), faithfulness, gentleness (or being humble) and self-controlled (or being self-restraining). These traits are listed in Galatians, Chapter 5.

If you've never understood the difference God can make in your life, now is the best time to admit to Him that you need forgiveness for all your past, present and future wrongdoings. Thank Jesus for paying the penalty for your sin and being willing to save you from an eternity in hell. Believe that Jesus' death on the cross built a bridge back to God for all those who trust in His atoning work. And commit yourself to keep Jesus as your Saviour and Lord for the rest of your life.

Learn Jesus' words in the Bible and talk to Him often in prayer. Then your life will change and you will see bad character traits turned around. You'll also find yourself viewing other people through the eyes of Christ.

Here's a good verse to keep in your mind – 1 Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verse 11: “You have been purified from sin; you have been dedicated to God; you have been put right with God by the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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