

Push Your Boat Out Into Deeper Water!

(A drama based on Luke 5: 1-11)

INTRODUCTORY NOTE FROM THE WRITER:

This play focuses on Jesus' meeting with Peter by Lake Galilee. Luke's story complements stories in Matthew 4: 18 - 21 and Mark 1:14 - 20. Jesus had already demonstrated his power to Peter by healing Peter's mother in law (Luke 4: 38 - 39). I assume that after their initial call to follow Jesus as recorded by Matthew and Mark, the disciples returned to their ordinary lives until Jesus called them for a second time. Even then both Jesus and the disciples remained in touch with their families. Jesus' family came to see him during his ministry and the mother of James and John tried to get Jesus to give her sons exalted positions in his kingdom.

Jesus' family were working class. Joseph was at least a skilled carpenter and probably also a competent builder. Jesus mastered all these skills and used them to support Mary and her large family. Till the age of 30 when his public ministry began, Jesus would have observed and shared in the life of his family and community. His teaching, especially his parables, reflect his experience of family life with all its stresses and joys. They also reveal his intimate knowledge of agriculture and animal husbandry, house building and many other facets of everyday life.

When Jesus came to build his inner core of disciples, the first four were fishermen, called while at work. Matthew, a tax collector, was also called to follow Jesus while working. Simon the Zealot was the most surprising choice: Zealots were committed to throwing out the occupying power, the Romans.

The moment when Jesus told Peter and his fellow fishermen to push their boats into deep water was a pivotal point in the story. It was also a key moment in Peter's life. The others evidently looked to him for leadership. Does he obey Jesus who he knows healed his mother in law? Or does he follow his own instinct, experience and desire for his own safety? The Greek word 'epistates' in Luke 5: 5 translated 'Master' can also mean organiser, superintendent, taskmaster, inspector, leader or chief. Its actual meaning is 'one who stands over.' He chooses to obey Jesus. Then he nets a huge catch of fish. He realises Jesus was no ordinary man. He is too holy for Peter to cope with. Then, like Isaiah, he receives his divine commission. The name 'Peter', given him by Jesus, means 'rock', from the Greek word 'petros'. I have added an optional Scene 3, based on 1 and 2 Peter, to indicate how faithfully Peter fulfilled the commission his Master had given him, even to the point of martyrdom, as Jesus had warned him.

MAIN CHARACTERS (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE):

Luke [researching material for his book about the life of Jesus]

Peter

Jesus

Andrew

Onlooker 1

Onlooker 2

Onlooker 3

Onlooker 4

James

John

Silas [for optional Scene 3]

Guard 1 [for optional Scene 3]

Guard 2 [for optional Scene 3]

