

Wonderful Salvation in the Gospel of Luke

BEING ATTRACTED BY THE LORD

And as the crowd pressed upon Him to hear the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And He saw two boats lying by the lake, and the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and from the boat taught the crowds. And when He ceased speaking, He said to Simon, Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. And Simon answered and said, Master, through the whole night we toiled and caught nothing; but based on Your word I will let down the nets. And when they did this, they enclosed a great number of fish, and their nets began to tear apart. And they signaled to their companions in the other boat to come and assist them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. And when Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord. For amazement had taken possession of him and all who were with him, because of the catch of the fish which they took. And likewise also James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive. And when they had brought the boats to land, they left all and followed Him (Luke 5:1-11).

The calling of the first four disciples was a calling that attracted the occupied ones. Human beings do not realize how much they are fallen not only in sin but also in their occupation. Our occupation is our business or means of employment, that is, our means of making a living. Today fallen human beings are occupied by their way of making their living.

Of course, it is necessary for us to work. Paul charged the believers to work for a living (2 Thes. 3:10-12). We need to have a means of employment. However, the problem is that our occupation occupies us and keeps us from God.

Human beings were created by God for Himself, but they are occupied and kept from Him by the matter of making a living. Nothing takes people away from God as much as their occupation. Consider today's world. Who is not occupied by his job or by the education in preparation for work? Although most people are busy, hardly anyone is busy with God. Instead, virtually everyone is occupied by something in place of God. Those who are occupied with making a living usually give excuses when invited to hear the gospel or to attend a meeting. If you invite such a one to hear the gospel, he may say that he does not have the time.

Satan's desire is to keep people occupied with making a living. This is illustrated by what Pharaoh did to the children of Israel. When Moses told Pharaoh to let God's people go, Pharaoh did his best to keep them occupied with their labors.

Peter was a professional fisherman, the lake had an abundance of fish, and night was the proper time for fishing. Nevertheless, they did not catch anything. It must have been that the Lord exercised His sovereignty to keep the fish away. The reason the Lord exercised His sovereignty in this way was that His intention was to attract Simon and his brother. Therefore, at the proper time, the Lord commanded the fish to come near. As a result, "they enclosed a great number of fish; and their nets were tearing apart." Both boats were filled to the point of sinking. "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, Lord!" We are told that "amazement had taken possession of him and all who were with him at the catch of the fish which they took."

Luke's intention in 5:1-11 is to show how the Man-Savior acted in His ministry in His human virtues with His divine attributes to attract people and gain them for Himself.

(Readings adapted from the Life-study of Luke.)