

Luke 5.1-11 English Version Notes - mgvhoffman ScrollandScreen.com

Be sure to check the translation notes (tn) in the NET Bible for more info on many of the questions I pose.

- If you have Accordance, it is a Bible that you have.
- If you do not have Accordance, [check this online version](#).

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Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ τὸν ὄχλον ἐπικεῖσθαι αὐτῷ καὶ ἀκούειν τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἐστὼς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρὲτ

NASB Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret;

KJV **And it came to pass**, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

ESV On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret,

NRS Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,

NET Now Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing around him to hear the word of God.

NIV One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

NJB Now it happened that he was standing one day by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God,

CEB One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around him to hear God's word.

NLT One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God.

CEV Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around him to hear God's message.

MSG Once when he was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, the crowd was pushing in on him to better hear the Word of God.

MGVH Now it happened as the crowd was pressing around Jesus and was listening to the word of God and Jesus, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret

- “And it came to pass...” This is the KJV rendering of a Greek phrase (Ἐγένετο δὲ with infinitive) that comes from the Septuagint which reflects a Hebrew expression (עָשָׂה with an infinitive) being translated into Greek.
 - Does the phrase sound like ‘biblisch’ to you? Does anyone talk like this in normal speech today?
 - Highlight in yellow how the other versions render the phrase.
 - What do you think is the best way to render it?
- What is the “lake of Gennesaret”? (What’s the difference between a “lake” and a “sea”?)
 - Note what the NLT does! Is that appropriate?
- Note a difference in the NLT and CEV in comparison to all the other versions which say Jesus was “standing.” NLT and CEV say he was “preaching / teaching.” This concept is not in the Greek. Is it a good or helpful clarification?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

καὶ εἶδεν δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἀλιεῖς ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀποβάντες ἔπλυνον τὰ δίκτυα.

^{NASB} and He **saw** two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

^{KJV} And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

^{ESV} and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

^{NRS} he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

^{NET} He saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

^{NIV} He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

^{NJB} when he caught sight of two boats at the water's edge. The fishermen had got out of them and were washing their nets.

^{CEB} Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets.

^{NLT} He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets.

^{CEV} Near the shore he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets.

^{MSG} He noticed two boats tied up. The fishermen had just left them and were out scrubbing their nets.

^{MGVH} and saw two boats sitting by the lake. Now the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

- Oral speech tends to use paratactic phrasing. (I.e., thoughts are connected by “and, but, or” rather than hypotactic constructions using subordinate clauses with “since, because, while, as...” preferred in literary compositions.) Note that the more literal versions (NASB, KJV, ESV) start with an “and” reflecting the καὶ in the Greek. The text may read better without the “and,” so do you think it should be included or not? (Also note the NJB has tried to resolve the matter in a different way of connecting verses 1 and 2.)
- Highlight in yellow how each version translates the verb for seeing. It’s a very minor difference, but do you like one better than another?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καθίσας δὲ ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου ἐδίδασκεν τοὺς ὄχλους.

^{NASB} And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land.

And He sat down and began teaching the people from the boat.

^{KJV} And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land.

And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

^{ESV} Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land.

And he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

^{NRS} He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.

Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

^{NET} He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore.

Then Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

^{NIV} He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore.

Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

^{NJB} He got into one of the boats -- it was Simon's -- and asked him to put out a little from the shore.

Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

^{CEB} Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore.

Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

^{NLT} Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

^{CEV} Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore.

Then Jesus sat down in the boat to teach the crowd.

^{MSG} He climbed into the boat that was Simon's and asked him to put out a little from the shore.

Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.

^{MGVH} So he got into one of the boats—which was Simon's—and asked him to put out a little way from the land. Then he sat down and began teaching the crowds.

- As noted above in v2, oral speech tends to use paratactic phrasing. (I.e., thoughts are connected by “and, but, or” rather than hypotactic constructions using subordinate clauses with “since, because, while, as...” preferred in literary compositions.)
 - Note that the more literal versions (NASB, KJV) start with an “and” reflecting the καὶ or δὲ in the Greek. The text may read better without the “and,” so do you think it should be included or not?
 - There is another “and / δὲ” in the second half of the verse. What do the versions do with this one?
- What other differences do you note in the versions?
Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

Ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπεν πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγρην.

^{NASB} When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

^{KJV} Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

^{ESV} And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”

^{NRS} When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”

^{NET} When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

^{NIV} When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

^{NJB} When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.'

^{CEB} When he finished speaking to the crowds, he said to Simon, “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

^{NLT} When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.”

^{CEV} When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, “Row the boat out into the deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish.”

^{MSG} When he finished teaching, he said to Simon, “Push out into deep water and let your nets out for a catch.”

^{MGVH} Now when he finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Launch out to the deep water and drop your nets for a catch.”

- Note that ἐπανάγαγε = “launch out” is singular and χαλάσατε = “lower” is plural. I.e., it appears that Peter (singular) is in charge of the boat and crew, but they all will be involved in lowering the nets.
- What differences in wording do you note in the versions?
Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς Σίμων εἶπεν· ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὰ δίκτυα.

^{NASB} Simon answered and said, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say and let down the nets."

^{KJV} And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

^{ESV} And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets."

^{NRS} Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets."

^{NET} Simon answered, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing! But at your word I will lower the nets."

^{NIV} Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

^{NJB} Simon replied, 'Master, we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.'

^{CEB} Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

^{NLT} "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

^{CEV} "Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down."

^{MSG} Simon said, "Master, we've been fishing hard all night and haven't caught even a minnow. But if you say so, I'll let out the nets."

^{MGVH} And Simon answered and said, "Sir, we worked all night long and caught nothing. But because you say so, I'll drop the nets."

- The Greek here reflects a common idiom using a circumstantial participle (ἀποκριθεὶς = "having answered") and an indicative verb (εἶπεν = "he said") >> "And having answered, he (Simon) said, ..."
 - Highlight in yellow what the other versions do with this idiom.
 - What do you think is the best way to render this? (Check the NET Bible notes! Do you agree?)
- All the versions here say that Simon called Jesus "Master." Check the NET Bible notes or use your Greek lexicon to find out more about the connotations of this word. (I.e., is Simon implying Jesus is divine with this title?)
 - In what domain is "master" language used? Is it a good choice here? Is there a better choice? (Is Simon being respectful or sarcastic?)
 - What previous experience has Simon had with Jesus in Luke?
- What other differences in wording do you note in the versions?
Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ, διερρήσσετο δὲ τὰ δίκτυα αὐτῶν.

^{NASB} When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break;

^{KJV} And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

^{ESV} And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking.

^{NRS} When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.

^{NET} When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets started to tear.

^{NIV} When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

^{NJB} And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear,

^{CEB} So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting.

^{NLT} And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear!

^{CEV} They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart.

^{MSG} It was no sooner said than done-- a huge haul of fish, straining the nets past capacity.

^{MGVH} And when they did this, they caught up a huge haul of fish. Even their nets were starting to rip apart!

- The NASB is a very good literal translation of the Greek here. What differences in wording do you note in the versions? Are any of them significant?
- The versions all express a similar idea, but which version do you think is best? Why?

καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις ἐν τῷ ἑτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντας συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον καὶ ἔπλησαν ἀμφοτέρα τὰ πλοῖα ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά.

^{NASB} so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

^{KJV} And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

^{ESV} They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

^{NRS} So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

^{NET} So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they were about to sink.

^{NIV} So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

^{NJB} so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled both boats to sinking point.

^{CEB} They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink.

^{NLT} A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

^{CEV} Then they signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink.

^{MSG} They waved to their partners in the other boat to come help them. They filled both boats, nearly swamping them with the catch.

^{MGVH} And they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they did come and filled both boats so that they began sinking.

- As noted in v2, this verse also starts out with a καὶ = “and” (cf. KJV). What do the other versions do with it?
- What other differences in wording do you note in the versions?
Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

Ἴδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσεν τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἀνὴρ ἁμαρτωλός εἰμι, κύριε.

^{NASB} But when Simon Peter saw that, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

^{KJV} When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

^{ESV} But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

^{NRS} But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

^{NET} But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

^{NIV} When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

^{NJB} When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.'

^{CEB} When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!"

^{NLT} When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me-- I'm too much of a sinner to be around you."

^{CEV} When Simon Peter saw this happen, he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me! I am a sinner."

^{MSG} Simon Peter, when he saw it, fell to his knees before Jesus. "Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself."

^{MGVH} But when Simon Peter saw what happened, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Get away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord."

- What is going on in the NLT that it is so much longer than the other versions?
- Simon Peter: We won't find out until 6.4 that Jesus named Simon "Peter."
- What did Simon call Jesus in v5? (Greek and English)

What does he call Jesus here?

- What is the difference in connotations between the two words used?
- Note that in the Greek, κύριε occurs at the very end of Simon Peter's statement for dramatic impact, forming a nice frame with verse where he started his statement with ἐπιστάτα.
- What other differences in wording do you note in the versions?
Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρᾳ τῶν ἰχθύων ὧν συνέλαβον,

^{NASB} For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;

^{KJV} For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

^{ESV} For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,

^{NRS} For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;

^{NET} For Peter and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken,

^{NIV} For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

^{NJB} For he and all his companions were completely awestruck at the catch they had made;

^{CEB} Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught.

^{NLT} For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.

^{CEV} Peter and everyone with him were completely surprised at all the fish they had caught.

^{MSG} When they pulled in that catch of fish, awe overwhelmed Simon and everyone with him.

^{MGVH} For *Peter* was overcome with astonishment—and all the ones with him—at the catch of fish which they had pulled in.

- What words are used to render the response of Peter and the others? Highlight them in yellow. Which wording do you think is best? Why?
- What other differences in wording do you note in the versions? Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἱ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα ὁ Ἰησοῦς·
μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἀνθρώπους ἔσῃ ζῶγρῶν.

NASB 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.”

KJV And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon,
Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

ESV and so also were James and John, 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.”

NRS and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon,
 “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”

NET and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's business partners. Then Jesus said to Simon,
 “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”

NIV and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon,
 “Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”

NJB so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon,
 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is people you will be catching.'

CEB James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too. Jesus said to Simon,
 “Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.”

NLT His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon,
 “Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!”

CEV His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too. Jesus told Simon,
 “Don't be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish.”

MSG It was the same with James and John, Zebedee's sons, coworkers with Simon. Jesus said to Simon,
 “There is nothing to fear. From now on you'll be fishing for men and women.”

MGVH Now also just as astonished were Jacob and Johanan—sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon,
 “Don't be afraid. From now on you'll be live-catching people.”

- The KJV renders Jesus' words as: “Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.” Highlight in yellow how the other versions translate the phrase.
 - What do the NASB and ESV do with this phrase the same as the KJV that none of the other versions do? (Hint: Who will they be catching?)
 - Describe what other differences the modern versions have compared to the KJV.
 - Look up the word **ζῶγρῶν** in a lexicon. It has the same root ἄγρᾱ as was used in vv 4 and 9. What's different here?
- What other differences in wording do you note in the versions?
 Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἀφέντες πάντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

^{NASB} When they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

^{KJV} And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

^{ESV} And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

^{NRS} When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

^{NET} So when they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

^{NIV} So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

^{NJB} Then, bringing their boats back to land they left everything and followed him.

^{CEB} As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

^{NLT} And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

^{CEV} The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and went with Jesus.

^{MSG} They pulled their boats up on the beach, left them, nets and all, and followed him.

^{MGVH} And after they dragged their boats back on land, they left everything and followed him.

- As noted in v2, this verse also starts out with a καὶ = “and” (cf. KJV). What do the other versions do with it?
- In verse 10, Jesus was speaking only to Simon (ἔσθι is 2nd singular), but here “they” (3rd plural), apparently including James and John follow Jesus.
- What other differences in wording do you note in the versions?
Are any of them significant?
- The versions are all similar, but in light of the points above, which version do you think is best? Why?

Luke 5.1-11 mgvhoffman translation

¹ Now it happened as the crowd was pressing around *Jesus*
and was listening to the word of God
and *Jesus*, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret
² and saw two boats sitting by the lake.

Now the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.

³ So he got into one of the boats—which was Simon’s—
and asked him to put out a little way from the land.

Then he sat down
and began teaching the crowds.

⁴ Now when he finished speaking,
he said to Simon,

“Launch out to the deep water and drop your nets for a catch.”

⁵ And Simon answered and said,

“Sir, we worked all night long and caught nothing.
But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.”

⁶ And when they did this,
they caught up a huge haul of fish.

Even their nets were starting to rip apart!

⁷ And they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them.

And they did come and filled both boats,
so that they began sinking.

⁸ But when Simon Peter saw *what happened*,
he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying,

“Get away from me, because I’m a sinful man, Lord.”

⁹ For *Peter* was overcome with astonishment—and all the ones with him—
at the catch of fish which they had pulled in.

¹⁰ Now also just as *astonished were* Jacob and Johanan—
sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

And Jesus said to Simon,

“Don’t be afraid. From now on you’ll be live-catching people.”

¹¹ And after they dragged their boats back on land,
they left everything
and followed him.