



"Come, follow me."

Filling the Nets - Luke 5:1-11

It was late afternoon. Granny B was sweeping her front porch steps when she noticed Delbert and Lello walking slowly up the path. They both looked a bit sad. On a rope around Delbert's neck hung a small bucket filled with netting.

"Hello, little ones," Granny B greeted them cheerfully.

Delbert gave her a quiet hello as they both clomped up the porch steps and flopped down on porch floor. Granny B put away her broom and sat down in her rocker with Lello at her feet.

"It looks like you two have had a long day," said Granny B.

"We've been fishing at the stream all day long!" Delbert said.

"Yeah and we never caught a single fish!" reported Lello.

"Oh, I see," Granny B said gently. "Well, I know a story that might cheer you up. Would you like to hear it?"

"What's it about?" Lello asked.

"It's about a miracle," Granny B began. "Do you remember what a miracle is?"

"Yeah," Lello looked up, "A miracle is an amazing surprise from God."

Delbert pouted. "If I could have a miracle, I would wish for fish."

Granny B stroked Delbert behind his ears and said, "Oh Delbert, a miracle is far more than someone getting what they wish for...God does every miracle for a very important reason."

"Yeah!" Lello bleated, "To point people to Jesus."

"That's right, Lello," smiled Granny B as she thumbed through the pages of her Bible. "And this miracle is about fish."

"Did you say fish?" Delbert ears perked up.

"Yes," Granny B began, "The fishermen had not caught any fish all night. Jesus asked Simon Peter to row out into the water."

"Did Jesus help them catch fish?" Lello asked.

Granny B nodded. "Jesus told him to throw the nets into the water. Simon Peter did it and guess what happened?"

"They caught lots and lots of fish?" Delbert guessed hopefully.

Granny B grinned from ear to ear. "They caught so many fish their nets began to break! The fishermen knew it was a miracle!"

"Haw!" Delbert jumped to his feet, "Then what happened?"

"Jesus told Simon Peter and the others, 'Come, follow Me.'" Granny B continued, "He said they would catch men instead of fish."

Lello looked confused. "You mean they would catch men in their fishing nets?"

"No, Lello." Delbert explained. "I think it means that instead of just bringing fish to Jesus, now they would bring people to Jesus so they can follow Him, too."

"Ohhhhh. What did they do next?" Lello asked.

"Simon Peter and the other fishermen left everything—even all the fish they had just caught, and followed Jesus." Granny B finished.

"They left their fish?" Delbert asked amazed.

"But why did Jesus let them catch all those fish, if they were just going to leave everything?" Lello wondered.

Granny B slowly closed her Bible and slipped it into her apron pocket. "I think Jesus used the fish to get their attention. It worked, didn't it?"

"Yeah," Lello agreed. "All those fish got my attention, too! Jesus is amazing!"

"Haw! I'll remember this miracle forever," Delbert announced. "Miracles aren't about wishes, they are God's way of helping us believe and following Jesus." He turned and trotted happily down the steps, "Lello, come follow me. Let's go do some more fishing!"

"But, what if we still don't catch any fish?" Lello asked.

"Haw! That's okay. Fishing by the stream is a great way to think about the miracles of Jesus. Maybe we can be catchers of men, too! We can tell others about Jesus and His miracles!" Delbert suggested.

"Yeah," Lello agreed.

Granny B smiled and rocked gently in her chair as she watched the two friends trot down the path toward the stream.