



Filling the Nets

Luke 5:1-11

"Chauncey! So good to see you!" Algernon brushed the leaves from his flight suit and waved to his brother. "I just crashed my aero plane into the trees. Where did you crash yours?"

Chauncey grinned. "On top of Miracle Mountain," he said while pointing to a still smoking spot over their heads.

Algernon laughed. "Well, ole boy, you've got me beat this time! Let me buy you some lunch!"

"Sushi?" Chauncey queried. "I hear the fish around this island are quite delicious."

"You read my mind, old boy!" Algernon replied. "How did you know I love sushi?"

"Everyone loves a tasty piece of fish! Even Jesus and the disciples!" Chauncey remarked.

"Yes, those disciples were always fishing." Algernon started walking to his plane to pick up his fishing pole. He was looking forward to relaxing while catching a few fish.

Chauncey, however, was still thinking about Jesus and the disciples. "Yes, in fact there's a great story in the Bible where Jesus took Simon Peter fishing." He lifted the Bible out of the Cargo Crate in Algernon's plane. "Now, where did I see that story?"

Algernon retrieved his fishing pole and began to search for bait. "Did you try Luke chapter five?" he asked while sifting through a large green cooler to find the bait shrimp.

Chauncey grinned and began flipping through the Bible. "Good show, Algie! How did you know that?"

"I read the book!" Algernon joked.

Chauncey found the passage. "Excellent! This is a wonderful story. In the book of Luke, chapter five, Jesus gets right in the boat with Simon Peter and the other disciples and tells them to head out to the deep water and let down their nets for a catch!"

"But they didn't want to fish, did they, Chauncey?" Algernon pondered aloud as he slung his fishing pole over his shoulder and began weaving through the underbrush to the beach.

Chauncey grabbed a fishing net and trotted to catch up with his brother. "You're right, Algie, they had been fishing all night and had not caught a single sardine!"

"That's right! Not so much as a kippered herring! Nor even a lousy lungfish! Not even a tin of tuna or a can of codfish! Or a filet-o-fish sandwich! They couldn't even find Nemo!" Algernon added. "Well, whatever did they do?" He asked as he stopped at the water's edge and his shoes sank into the soft white sand.

Chauncey passed him and waved for him to follow. "I shall show you!" He said and led Algernon to the mouth of a river that was flowing in the ocean. "First, do you know what Peter said to Jesus?"

Algernon thought for a moment. "Oh, I remember! 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because You say so, I will let down the nets.'"

"Very good, Algie! As you can see Peter was obedient and he let down the nets. Here, hold out this net." Chauncey directed as he showed his brother how to hold the net and throw it to catch fish. Algernon took the net and swept it over the water. Immediately, he drew it towards him. To his amazement, he caught four fish in his net on the first try. Chauncey helped him pull his catch to shore and said, "And so they caught so many fish that their nets began to break!"

Algernon was excited. "It's a miracle! Oh, Chauncey, that was wonderful! Look at our fish! That was so quick and easy! Much faster than fishing with a pole! Do you think Peter was surprised when he caught the fish in his net?"

Chauncey nodded. "Yes and a little frightened. Peter fell to his knees and told Jesus, 'Go away from me, Lord. I'm a sinful man!'"

Algernon began cleaning the fish. "The fishermen didn't think they were good enough to follow Jesus because He could do miracles! So, did Jesus go away?"

"Heavens no, dear boy. He told them that from now on they were going to catch men! As fishermen they found fish, but if they followed Jesus, they would find people who wanted to follow Jesus!" Chauncey explained.

"Ah yes, so in a way, they'd be fishing for followers. Splendid!" Algernon said. "So, what did they do?"

"The Bible says, 'So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed Him.' Do you know why they followed Him?" Chauncey asked his brother.

"Why?" Algernon asked as he filleted the fish.

"Because He could do miracles! They knew Jesus was truly the Son of God. And they were learning that it's incredible but true, what the God of Wonders can do!" Chauncey exclaimed as he looked down at the rock where Algie was rolling rice into a fish fillet. "I say, Algie, you have done a fine job with that sushi! Shall we dig in?"

Algernon rolled the last piece of sushi and offered it to Chauncey. "Good idea! Enjoy!"