

The Red-Letter Words of Yeshua ~ Part 13

Great Catch of Fish

¹ One day, as Yeshua was standing on the shore of Lake Kinneret, with the people pressing in around Him in order to hear the word of God, ² He noticed two boats pulled up on the beach, left there by the fishermen, who were cleaning their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Shim'on, and asked him to put out a little way from shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

The shore of the lake functioned acoustically like an amphitheater; withdrawing a little from the crowd and addressing them from the boat thus would have made **Yeshua** much easier to hear.

⁴ When He had finished speaking, He said to Shim'on, **"Put out into deep water, and let down your nets for a catch."** ⁵ Shim'on answered, "We've worked hard all night long, Rabbi, and haven't caught a thing! But if you say so, I'll let down the nets." ⁶ They did this and took in so many fish that their nets began to tear. ⁷ So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats to the point of sinking.

*They motioned to their partners...*the group likely includes **Andrew**, **Kefa's** brother, since they fished together; this may also be a parallel, expanded account of **Yeshua's** calling of these talmidim recorded in Mattityahu's Gospel (see below). **Luke** likely leaves **Andrew** unnamed because this episode aims to record the calling of **Yeshua's** three most influential talmidim.

⁸ When he saw this, Shim'on Kefa fell at Yeshua's knees and said, "Get away from me, sir, because I'm a sinner!" ⁹ For astonishment had seized him and everyone with him at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and likewise both Ya'akov and Yochanan, Shim'on's partners. ~ Luke 5:1-10a

In verses 3–5, **Luke** called him merely **Shim'on**, but in verse 8, he pointedly notes that **Shim'on Kefa** (Simon the Rock) **fell at Yeshua's knees**.

The Calling of Shim'on, Ya'akov, Yochanan, and Andrew

"Don't be frightened," Yeshua said to Shim'on, "from now on, you will be catching men—alive!"

¹¹ And as soon as they had beached their boats, they left everything behind and followed him. ~ Luke 5;10b-11 ¹⁸ As Yeshua walked by Lake Kinneret, He saw two brothers who were fishermen – Shim'on, known as Kefa, and his brother Andrew - throwing their net into the lake.

Lake Kinneret is the name used in **Isra'el** for the body of freshwater formed by the **River Yarden** (Jordan) in the **Galil** (Galilee); it is so-called because it is shaped like a harp. English versions of the Bible identify it as the Sea of Galilee; at Yochanan 6:1, 23, and 21:1, the Greek text calls it the **Sea of Tiberias**.

Kefa is the name **Yeshua** gave **Shim'on Bar-Yochanan** (Yochanan 1:42); it means "rock" in Aramaic. The Greek word for "rock" is "*Petros*," which is usually brought into English as **Peter**.

¹⁹ Yeshua said to them, **"Come after me, and I will make you fishers for men!"** ²⁰ At once they left their nets and went with him. ²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers - Ya'akov Ben-Zavdai and Yochanan his brother - in the boat with their father Zavdai, repairing their nets; and he called them. ²² At once, they left the boat and their father and went with Yeshua. ~ Matthew 4:18-22 (compare Mark 1:16-20) [emphasis added]

One of the things that has always fascinated me is Yeshua's charisma in calling His talmidim. He spoke, and they followed. The Faithlife Study Bible explains it this way: Capernaum was small, and Jesus had been preaching the coming of the kingdom of heaven (compare v. 17). The two brothers, Peter and Andrew, had probably already heard of Jesus. James and John were associated with Andrew and Simon Peter. They were likely also familiar with Jesus.¹

There's an important principle here. If you're not fishing, you're not following. If your **Messianic** life does not involve evangelizing the lost, you're not functioning like the talmid Yeshua intends you to be. Evangelism includes sharing the gospel and intentionally seeking to convert the hearer to faith in **Yeshua HaMashiach**.

Our next post will examine **Yeshua Driving Out an Unclean Spirit** and **Healing Others in Capernaum**.

¹ Faithlife Study Bible. Lexham Press.