

Simon Gets a New Job

Matthew 4:18-22

Mark 1:16-20

Luke 5:1-11

Simon was tired. He had been trying to catch fish all night long. But there didn't seem to be any fish.

Simon was cleaning his fishing net on the shore. He saw Jesus walking toward him. A crowd of people were following Jesus.

"Simon," called Jesus. "May I use your boat?"

"Sure," said Simon. "Why?"

"If you stop it near the shore, I can sit in your boat and talk to the people."

Jesus sat in Simon's boat. Jesus told the people about God's promise to love everyone. Simon listened too.

When Jesus was finished talking to the people, he asked Simon, "How many fish did you catch?"

"There aren't any fish out there," Simon grumbled.

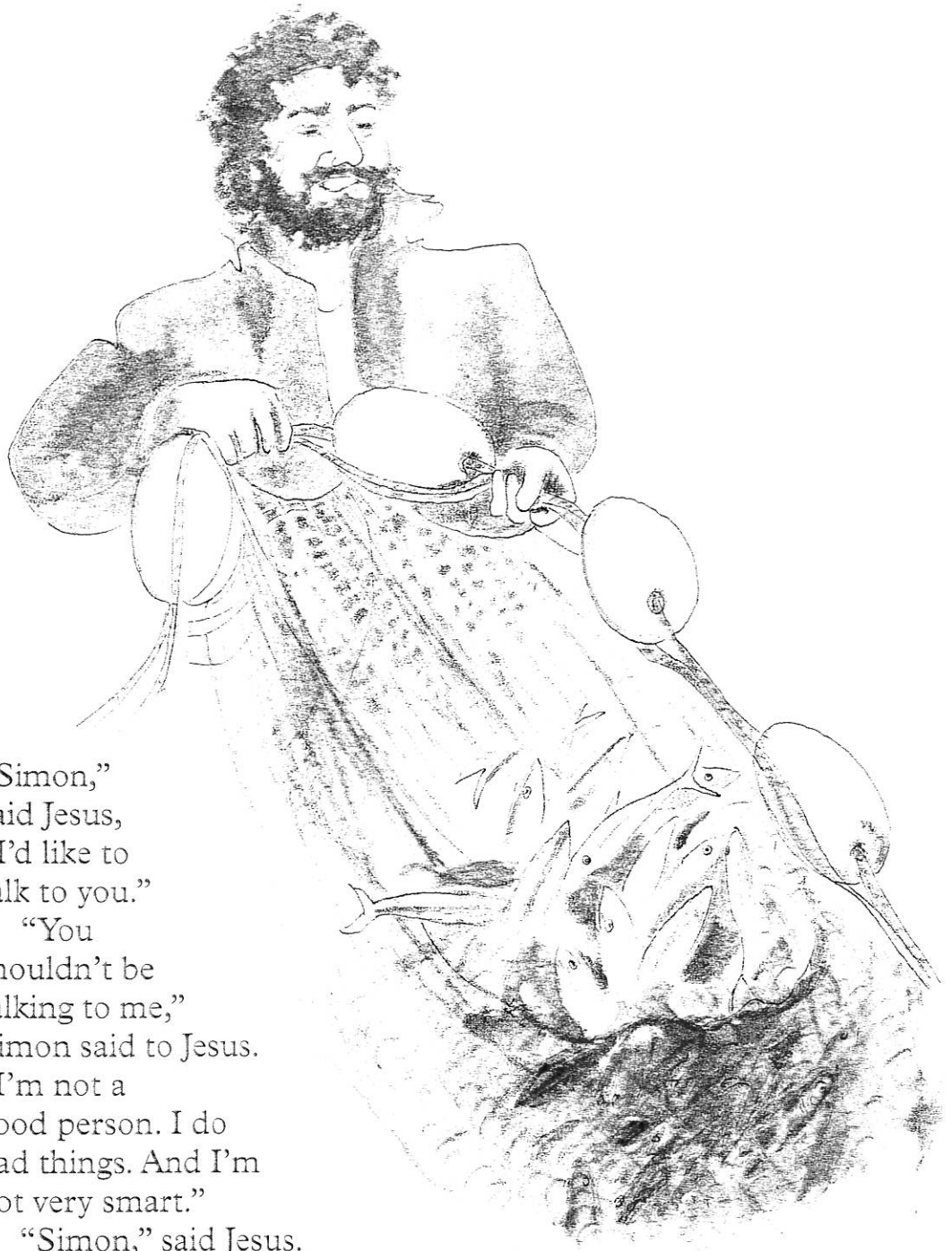
"Sure there are," laughed Jesus. "Get back into your boat and go where the water is deep. Then try again."

"Wow!" shouted Simon after he started fishing again. "Look at all these fish. My boat is full. Look out! It might sink."

It was hard to row that boat full of fish back to the shore. As he rowed, Simon thought about Jesus. He thought about the things he had just heard Jesus saying.

Then Simon felt sad. "I can't live in God's way," he thought. "I tell lies. I get angry. I'm ugly. I do stupid things. Jesus wouldn't want to be my friend."

Jesus was standing on the shore waiting for Simon.



“Simon,”
said Jesus,
“I’d like to
talk to you.”

“You
shouldn’t be
talking to me,”
Simon said to Jesus.
“I’m not a
good person. I do
bad things. And I’m
not very smart.”

“Simon,” said Jesus.
“I helped you with your work.
Why don’t you come and help me with mine?”

“But all I can do is catch fish!”

“Fine,” laughed Jesus. “Come, help me catch people.”

That’s how Simon became one of Jesus’ special helpers.
Other women and men also became Jesus’ special helpers. The
Bible calls them “disciples.”