

Launching Out Successfully

Luke 5:1-11



We often despair when a special project, a work opportunity, or a new goal ends in failure. Suggestions abound on the secrets of success, and often include being persistent, determined, conscientious, focused, goal-oriented, resilient, or enlisting a personal trainer.

Long ago, a group of commercial fishermen did not catch a thing while fishing on a lake teeming with life. They had **"toiled all night"** and had **"taken nothing"** (Luke 5:5). How discouraging! What had gone wrong? The problem was not lack of effort: they had worked hard and toiled (labored with wearisome effort). Perseverance was there ("all night"). Neither was the lack of skill an issue (they were experienced, professional fishermen). Yet, they failed. After these men had given up and were cleaning their nets, the Lord Jesus instructed, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." Explaining that this did not make sense, they tried again. They obeyed His instructions and had amazing success: "And when they had this done, **they enclosed a great multitude of fishes:** and their net brake" (Luke 5:6).

Their fishing endeavor succeeded because the Lord Jesus was right there with them and they honored and obeyed Him, not because of the important qualities of experience, hard work, and perseverance. These men vividly realized that **true attainment comes only from the Lord**, and they left all to follow Him. They then had an excellent Personal Trainer for every difficult situation they would eventually face.

May we avail ourselves of this wonderful blueprint for victory as we launch out on small and large challenges. We have God's Word and instructions: "Meditate therein day and night... observe to do according to all that is written therein... then thou shalt have **good success**" (Joshua 1:8). When we follow Him carefully, **we will indeed prosper**. Let us launch out in obedience and faith!

George Zeller, www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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