

## International S. S. Lessons.

14 October.

### The Draught of Fishes.

Les. Luke 5 : 1-11. Gol. Text, Mark 1 : 17.  
Mem. vs. 4-6. Catechism Q. 97.

Last lesson we saw Jesus at Nazareth, calmly walking through the angry crowd that was going to throw Him over the rock, and going away sad that His old friends should reject the good news that was brought to them.

A few weeks later, we find Him in this lesson, near Capernaum, on the shores of the sea of Galilee, about fifteen miles from Nazareth. Find it on the map.

Come let us visit the place. Let us fancy ourselves away back in the time of Christ.

We pass along over an open plain. We come to a descent. Look? Before us and away below us is a lake, about a dozen miles long and half as broad. It is dotted with boats. Along its shores are towns and villages. (To-day it is very lonely and still.)

Almost all around it are hills, but on the west side we see a plain near the water's edge about three miles long and half a mile wide, the plain of Genesareth.

It is morning. The night was the best time for fishing. All night long the fishermen have been at work, and now they are drawing their boats to the shore and are fixing up their nets before going to sleep and rest for the day.

We see a crowd gathered. Jesus is there. Although it is morning the people have found where He is and have followed Him.

His disciples, who had been with him in Judea last summer, have been fishing for a few weeks, and He comes to where their boats lie moored. There is no platform or hillock from which He can speak to the crowd, so He steps into Peter's boat and asks him to push off a little from the land. He sits down in the boat, as speakers in the synagogue used to do, and preaches to the people who stand along the shore.

Now He has finished, and He says to Peter, "Push off a little further into deep water, and cast your net."

"We have fished all night and have caught nothing," says Peter, as if to say "there is not much use trying in the day-time, after that. But since you say so, I will try again."

Out rows the boat. Down goes the net. How it sweeps and sways with the fishes that are struggling in it. They begin to pull it in. It is on the point of breaking. They call to the other boat. Soon both boats are loaded to the water's edge, and slowly and carefully they pull them to the shore.

See Peter falling down before Jesus. What

is he doing! Thanking Him for the fish? No, the one feeling that Peter has, is, that here is the Great and Holy One, and he feels so unworthy and sinful. Christ speaks kindly to him and says, "Fear not, henceforth, you shall catch, not fish, but men from sin and misery to goodness and heaven."

21 October.

### A Sabbath in Capernaum.

Les. Mark 1 : 31-31. Gol. Text, Mark 1 : 22.  
Mem. vs. 27, 28. Catechism Q. 98.

A wonderful Sabbath it was. Capernaum never saw such a day before. It was the first Sabbath after the wonderful catch of fish. The people of Capernaum went to Church that morning as usual. Jesus also came to the meeting, and the four disciples who had followed him from the fishing boats a few days before.

It was the custom to call upon different ones to speak as is sometimes the case with us in prayer meeting. Jesus was called upon. How they listened. They had never heard such preaching. No one slept that day during the sermon.

But there was one who did not like it. There was a man there who had probably lived a bad life for so long that the evil one had complete possession of him, and when the poor man spoke it was the demon who lived in him that spoke, for he ruled the poor man's will.

And the demon said, "Let us alone, what have we to do with thee. Art thou come to destroy us. I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God."

But the demon would have done better to have kept quiet, for Jesus bade him leave the man, and the poor fellow whom he had tormented so long became quiet and in his right mind.

When the service was over they came out of the meeting house and Simon took Jesus into his house to dinner, and Andrew and James and John went in too.

Simon's mother-in-law lived with him and they told Jesus that she was not well. He went and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Her fever left, and she went and got them their dinner.

The people who had been at Church in the morning had all gone away wondering at the power of Jesus, and so soon as the sun had set and their Sabbath was past, they began to bring all the sick people in the town to Peter's house. The whole town gathered about the door and Jesus healed them as they came. What glad hearts there would be in Capernaum that night; all the sick were made well. Slowly the great crowd would melt away, as group after group