

ed to trust the wisdom of Jesus, and cheerfully obeyed. 8. A great multitude of fishes—The miracle consisted either in knowing that the shoal was there, or in bringing it to that place. The sea of Galilee has always been famed for the number and variety of its fishes. There are more than fifty kinds. This was an acted parable (Matt. 13: 47), and prophecy of the success of the apostles on the day of pentecost. Their nets were breaking (R. V.)—with the weight of fish. 7. They beckoned—Some think that they were so astonished and awed that they did not like to shout. Peter's words would give this impression. Their partners—James and John, who had hired men with them (Mark 1: 20). Began to sink—they could just float and no more.

III. THE PROMISE. 8. Simon Peter—His full name is given for the first time. This is an instance of his deep and strong religious feeling. Jesus was evidently in the boat all the time. Depart from me—Peter was not afraid of Jesus. He felt himself unworthy to be in the presence of one so glorious and holy, yet he would have been very sorry if Jesus had gone away. It is with such as Peter that God loves to dwell (Isa. 57: 15; 66: 1, 2; Ps. 34: 18; 138: 6). Other instances in which the same awe and reverence were felt, Ex. 20: 19; Judges 13: 22; 2 Sam. 6: 9; 1 Kings 17: 18; Job 42: 5, 6; Isa. 6: 5; Dan. 8: 17; 10: 17. When God is giving us more blessings than we can carry we are apt to hug them close and pray for more, but if we felt

like Peter we would say "Enough, Lord, and more than I deserve. Make me more grateful for all that I have received," Ps. 116: 12; 103: 2. A sinful man—Not worse than others, but he did not compare himself with his fellow men but with the holiness of Christ, compare 1 Tim. 1: 15. 9. He was astonished—Lit. "astonishment encompassed him," seized hold of him completely. 10. Thou shalt catch—R. V. marg. "take alive." Compare the parable in Matt. 13: 47-50. Satan, too, captures men alive (2 Tim. 2: 26). But the gospel fisherman does it to save life. From these words of Christ, and the parable referred to, came the early Christian symbol of a fish. It was all the more readily adopted because the letters of the word in Greek (I-ch-th-u-s) are the first letters of the sentence. "J-esus Ch-rist the S-on (u) of G-od (th), the S-aviour." The promise was first fulfilled to Peter on the day of pentecost when 3,000 were captured at one cast of his net. II. They left all and followed him—Henceforth they were in preparation for the higher occupation of fishing for men. Andrew is not mentioned by Luke, but we know from the story in Matthew and Mark that he was one of the group. Read Luke 18: 28-30 and Ph. 3: 7, 8: When it seemed to them that all their hopes were buried in the grave of Jesus they returned to their old occupation (John 21: 1-3), but He appeared and recalled them to his service (John 21: 15-17). We too must follow Jesus imitating his example and loving him with all our hearts.

To the Scholar.—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal reference and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following without accepting aid from any quarter after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—Where was Jesus at this time, and from what sort of a pulpit did he preach? (4)
- 2.—What did he tell Simon to do, and why did he hesitate to obey? (4)
- 3.—What was the reward of obedience? (4)
- 4.—How did this affect Simon, and what did he do and say? (5)
- 5.—How did Jesus encourage him? (4)
- 6.—Who were with Simon and what did they do when they came ashore? (4)

Name _____

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory verses in addition to the Golden Text, and Questions in the Catechism and have recited them to I was at church I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.