

# Luke 5:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

## Analysis

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**As the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God**—The verb epikeisthai (ἐπίκεισθαι, 'pressed upon') conveys physical crowding, eager intensity to hear ton logon tou theou (τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, 'the word of God'). Luke consistently uses this elevated phrase rather than 'Jesus's teaching,' emphasizing divine authority. The crowd's hunger for God's word contrasts with religious leaders' hardness, validating Jesus's ministry among common people.

**He stood by the lake of Gennesaret**—Luke uses the Greek name limnēs Gennēsaret (λίμνης Γεννησαρέτ, 'Lake of Gennesaret'), referencing the fertile plain on the northwest shore, rather than the Hebrew 'Sea of Galilee' or 'Sea of Tiberias.' This sets the scene for the miraculous catch of fish (verses 4-11) and Peter's call to discipleship. The geographic specificity anchors Luke's narrative in eyewitness testimony. Standing by water while teaching anticipates using Simon's boat as a floating pulpit (verse 3), demonstrating Jesus's practical adaptability in ministry—turning a fisherman's boat into a teaching platform, ordinary moments into divine encounters.

## Historical Context

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The Lake of Gennesaret (Sea of Galilee) was central to Galilean life, supporting a thriving fishing industry. The fertile Gennesaret plain produced abundant crops, making the region densely populated. Jesus concentrated His early ministry here rather than in Jerusalem, reaching common people—fishermen, farmers, tax

collectors—who became His first disciples. The lake's acoustics made it ideal for outdoor teaching to large crowds.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. What does the crowd's eagerness to 'hear the word of God' reveal about spiritual hunger? How does your own hunger for Scripture compare?
2. How does Jesus's use of a fisherman's boat for ministry illustrate His ability to sanctify ordinary resources for kingdom purposes?
3. In what practical, unexpected ways might God be calling you to use your 'boat'—your resources, skills, or platform—for His word?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐγένετο	δὲ	ἐν	τῷ	τὸν	ὄχλον	ἐπικεῖσθαι	αὐτὸς
it came to pass	And	that as	G3588	G3588	the people	pressed upon	he
G1096	G1161	G1722			G3793	G1945	G846
τοῦ	ἀκούειν	τὸν	λόγον	τοῦ	θεοῦ	καὶ	αὐτὸς
G3588	to hear	G3588	the word	G3588	of God	G2532	he
G191			G3056		G2316		G2258
ἐστῶς	παρὰ	τὴν	λίμνην	Γεννησαρέτ			
G2476	by	G3588	the lake	of Gennesaret			
	G3844		G3041	G1082			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 14:34** (Parallel theme): And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret.

**Mark 3:9** (Parallel theme): And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him.

**Numbers 34:11** (Parallel theme): And the coast shall go down from Shepham to Riblah, on the east side of Ain; and the border shall descend, and shall reach unto the side of the sea of Chinnereth eastward:

**Mark 6:53** (Parallel theme): And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore.

**Matthew 11:12** (Parallel theme): And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

**Deuteronomy 3:17** (Parallel theme): The plain also, and Jordan, and the coast thereof, from Chinnereth even unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, under Ashdoth-pisgah eastward.

**Joshua 12:3** (Parallel theme): And from the plain to the sea of Chinneroth on the east, and unto the sea of the plain, even the salt sea on the east, the way to Beth-jeshimoth; and from the south, under Ashdoth-pisgah:

**Mark 5:24** (Parallel theme): And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him.

**Luke 12:1** (Parallel theme): In the mean time, when there were gathered together an innumerable multitude of people, insomuch that they trode one upon another, he began to say unto his disciples first of all, Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.