

Luke 5:1

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret.

Could you imagine hundreds of people pressing in to hear Jesus speak? I can. I have actually seen it with my own eyes. Okay, maybe not to hear Jesus speak, but to hear His word being taught.

I remember years ago when I first became a Christian. There was a church that we went to in California that you actually had to get there early or you couldn't even get in. I don't mean just the main sanctuary but any overflow or hallways in the church, and sadly many would be turned away because there was no room. Fortunately, like today, they had several services, including two on Wednesday evenings because people flocked to hear the word of God being taught, and people were being saved each and every time.

But what's happened in the USA where people don't care that much about church and there are empty seats every Wednesday and Sunday? Is it the churches fault? I would say no. Sure you can try and blame the church or some of the people in it as the reason for not going any more. But the real reason people don't go is because they care more about themselves and what they can get out of it instead of how they can serve others.

✠ **Amos 8:11** *"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord GOD, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD."*

People are so hungry now a days, but not for the word of God, but pleasing the flesh and seeing what they can get, because life is just too short to waste it on church and that Jesus stuff, so they think. The reason they may think that way is they consider going to church a task or something they have to do instead of it being a privilege and a pleasure.

Going to church is not like going to work, where you have to or you won't get paid and you'll be homeless. No, church is more like a family reunion every week where you are spending time with your church family, and you actually like them. And once you start going, it's not long a task, but you actually look forward to it. You also find yourself growing spiritually and you see those sins in your life slowly start to shed off of you like fat off your body. So much so that you can't get enough so you find yourself in the word every day, reading and learning and praying. Then you find yourself doing for others and you realize there are millions worse off than you that need help and a Savior. Soon you are bringing more and more people with you to church to where we were before with the churches being filled to capacity simply because people love the Lord.

But for all of this to happen, we need to pray and ask for a hunger for God's word again. A hunger for ourselves, our family, friends and even our nation.

- † **Psalm 42:1-5** *As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, While they continually say to me, "Where is your God?" When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, With the voice of joy and praise, With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast. Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him For the help of His countenance.*
- † **Zechariah 1:3 (NLT)** *Therefore, say to the people, 'This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.'*