

**Sun., Jan. 30**

Memory Verse: Luke 5:13, “Jesus reached out His hand, touched him, and said, “I do want to. Be clean.’ Instantly, the skin disease left him.”

Reading of Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

Message: “The Son of Man 5: I Do Want To!”

Scripture: Luke 5:12-16

Blurb: Jesus starts calling disciples to follow Him, calling them to fish for people. We join in the crowds listening to Jesus, and we begin to realize that we are also called to follow Him. But do we leave our “boats” (careers) to do that? This Sunday we see Jesus demonstrating His power and purpose, but also His calling on our lives.

**[Recorded Worship Beginning]**

**WELCOME** -Pastor Andrew

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor Andrew

“Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I do want to. Be clean.’ Instantly, the skin disease left him.” Luke 5:13

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Pastor Andrew

*Covenant Song*

*Here I Am, Lord*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Live Worship Beginning]**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Questions (You Are Faithful)* -Sanctify

**WELCOME** -Pastor David

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I do want to. Be clean.’ Instantly, the skin disease left him.” Luke 5:13

**WORSHIP MUSIC SET** -Sanctify

*Covenant Song*

*Not Just Stories*

*Here I Am Lord*

Worship prayer -Pastor Andrew

**[Both Recorded & Live Worship]**

**READING OF SCRIPTURE: Luke 5:1-11**

In Luke 5 Jesus begins to call disciples to follow Him. He begins with fishermen, whom He calls to fish for people. As you hear this read, imagine Jesus calling you to follow Him, too. Luke 5:1-11,

“1 One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around Him to hear God’s word. 2 Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. 3 Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4 When He finished speaking to the crowds, He said to Simon, “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

“5 Simon replied, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.’

“6 So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. 7 They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Leave me, Lord, for I’m a sinner!” 9 Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. 10 James and John, Zebedee’s sons, were Simon’s partners and they were amazed too.

“Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.’ 11 As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.”

**GROW MOMENT:** Spring Grow Groups -Video by Amanda

**PRAYERS & LORD’S PRAYER** -Pastor Andrew

**GENERATIONAL BRIDGE:** “Fathers #5” -Pastor Andrew

**MESSAGE: The Son of Man (Luke 3-6) 5: “I Do Want To!”**

**PP#1:** The Son of Man: “I Do Want To!”

“Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.’ 11 As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.” -Luke 5:10b-11

The Son of Man: “I Do Want To!” Luke 5:11-12, “Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people.’ 11 As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.”

**PP#2:** *Image of Jesus inviting all people to follow Him*

As we’ve been following along with Jesus with Luke, we’re reading through all of Luke together. That means I have to preach on passages pastors normally skip over, like Jesus’ genealogy or Jesus trying to be killed by His own home town. But today—oh, today!—we come to one of the favorites for pastors: Jesus calling disciples. There are hundreds of sermons in this passage!

So, I'm having to restrain myself a bit, and try to stick to our primary purpose. Yes, we should hear this story as a calling for us—you and me—to follow Jesus, too. And that is a key application here. But this time, let's place ourselves in the crowd, clamoring around Jesus. I think this was Luke's intention. We are seeking to find out who this Jesus is and what it means to follow Him. And this story, you see, is primarily not about Jesus calling *us*, but about Him calling His 12 apostles. So, for us to hear this passage correctly, we need to remember to place ourselves as spectators in the crowd. So, let's do that, as we look at it again. Turn to Luke.

**PP#3:** *Map from last week showing Nazareth and Capernaum*

Now, begin by flipping back through chapter 4. It's always a good habit to look at the context for whatever you read from the Bible. Jesus had been baptized and began His public ministry. First thing the Holy Spirit leads Jesus into the wilderness to pray, fast, and orient His ministry in alignment with God's plan. The devil tempts Him there, but Jesus stays focused on God's plan. He then goes back to His home town of Nazareth and announces that He is the messiah promised in Isaiah 61, and then His own community rejects Him. So, He moves to Capernaum, a lakeside town, and seems to take up lodging with a man named Simon. The name Simon, by the way, is probably a shortened form of the Old Testament name Simeon we saw in Jesus' ancestry.

Jesus begins teaching and preaching and performing miracles. Unlike Nazareth, the folks in Capernaum rave about Him, and Jesus becomes a bit of a local celebrity. But the chapter ends with Jesus making trips around the area, taking His ministry "on the road."

**PP#4:** *Two contrasting images, of Jesus walking around and the Temple in Jerusalem*

So, first application here is that Jesus, the Savior, is God's presence that travels, going from person to person, town to town. God came in Jesus so that God could come right to wherever the people are, and come to people directly. Before, God's presence was in the Temple, and people had to go there to come near to God. Now, God comes near to people. Be sure to note this: that in the Bible, salvation is always God coming to people, not people going to God. This is very different from all the other religions, that explain how people can go find God. In Jesus, we proclaim that God finds us. Jesus, literally, is God with legs! Luke caught this in 4:13 when Jesus went over *and touched* the man with the skin disease to heal him. Luke recounts Jesus' personal touch.

**PP#5:** *Map of the Sea of Galilee, showing the towns of Capernaum, Genneseret and Tiberius.*

Okay, so, as we are part of the crowd wondering if perhaps God has come among us, we go to chapter 5. We catch gossip that Jesus is down by the lake. Like the rest of the crowd, we press in to see and hear Him.

By the way, this is the big lake in Israel, usually called the Sea of Galilee. It's not quite twice the size of Forest Lake. It's called Galilee because it's in the north, in the region of Galilee. But it seems to have had many names. Luke is the only one who calls it Lake Gennesaret, pulling the name from the flat plain to the west of the lake, called Gennesaret. There was also a town there by that name. The Romans, however, had newly establish a city on the southwest of the lake and named both the town and the lake after Emperor Tiberius. So, John calls it Lake Tiberious.

**PP#6:** Luke 5:1-36 (CEB)

“1 One day Jesus was standing beside Lake Gennesaret when the crowd pressed in around Him to hear God’s word. 2 Jesus saw two boats sitting by the lake. The fishermen had gone ashore and were washing their nets. 3 Jesus boarded one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, then asked him to row out a little distance from the shore. Jesus sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

Anyway, note the end of verse one: the people pressed in “to hear God’s word.” The purpose of what Jesus is doing is to share with the people the good news that God has come to them. Remember, last chapter was all about The Word. Make a note to the word “hear” and write, “Jesus’ objective.”

Verse 2. Jesus, being jostled and crowded, looks for a way to address the whole crowd. He comes up with a brilliant idea. He sees fishing boats at the shore and calls over the boat’s owners, whom Jesus just happens to know! Jesus had met the brothers Andrew and Simon when they were all listening to John the Baptist. John tells this story at the end of John 1. Write “See John 1:40” in the margin. Andrew, it seems, had become a disciple of John.

Well, after they were baptized, they all returned home: Jesus to Nazareth and Andrew and Simeon (and probably the brothers James and John, too,) to Capernaum. The four brothers operated a fishing business, along with James and John’s father Zebedee. So, it seems that Jesus may have chosen Capernaum on purpose!

**PP#7:** *Image of Jesus sitting in the boat with Peter and Andrew, teaching the crowd*

Well, the four brothers work through the night fishing—which is the best time to net fish there—but caught nothing. Jesus perhaps went down to see them in the morning when they were cleaning and setting their nets. The crowds gathered around the new Influencer, and He gets the idea to teach from their boat. So Jesus asks Peter and Andrew to take Him in their boat a few feet from shore so everyone could see and hear Him as He spoke to them.

In those days, teachers sat down to teach and listeners stood to listen. Kind of the opposite of today, right? But at least it helped the listeners pay attention...and not fall asleep!

**PP#8:** Luke 5:1-36 (CEB)

4 When He finished speaking to the crowds, He said to Simon, “Row out farther, into the deep water, and drop your nets for a catch.”

“5 Simon replied, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because you say so, I’ll drop the nets.’

Then, when Jesus finishes His message, He uses the situation to demonstrate His authority. The carpenter suddenly becomes an expert in fishing and tells the career fishermen how to fish. He tells them after a failed full shift to try again in the same water, with the same nets, at the wrong time of day for fishing. Notice that Peter already addresses Jesus as “Master.” It seems that he is already a follower of Jesus to a certain extent, and his response shows humble obedience. Now, perhaps you’ve heard a sermon on this right here: “I’ve tried my hardest. It makes no sense to me, but because you say so, Jesus, I’ll do it.” If only we could get to this place more often, right? Our thought, observing from shore, is, “I need to be more like Peter here!” Draw a line to verse 5 and write, “I need to be like this.” This is an application for us.

**PP#9:** *Image of the two fishing boats pulling in heaps of fish and the boats almost sinking*

And then, a miraculous massive catch of fish! The point, mind you, is not to help the fishermen be a success or help their finances. Jesus' miracles are always to demonstrate that Jesus wields power and authority. Draw a line to verse 6 write the note, "Shows Jesus' authority." I don't know if Luke has something against Andrew, but he never mentions him here by name. But Andrew and Peter signal their partners James and John to come over and help.

**PP#10:** Luke 5:1-36 (CEB)

6 So they dropped the nets and their catch was so huge that their nets were splitting. 7 They signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They filled both boats so full that they were about to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw the catch, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Leave me, Lord, for I'm a sinner!" 9 Peter and those with him were overcome with amazement because of the number of fish they caught. 10 James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Verse 8. When Simon sees the miracle, he realizes that he is in the presence of God's power, and he reacts by falling down on his knees proclaiming, "You are holy, I am not! I am unworthy! I don't deserve you!" Here *we* are, in the crowd, and we see in Simon how we are to respond to this Jesus. Draw a line to verse 8 and write, "Me, too." Another application for us.

**PP#11:** Luke 5:1-36 (CEB)

10 James and John, Zebedee's sons, were Simon's partners and they were amazed too.

Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid. From now on, you will be fishing for people."

11 As soon as they brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Jesus."

Now, the Bible people split up the verses here oddly in verse 10. The second half of verse 10 shows the calling that Jesus had for His *apostles*. I need to explain something here. There is a difference between being a disciple of Jesus and being an apostle. Anyone who follows Jesus is a disciple. In the crowd, we are watching all this and trying to decide what we are going to do with Jesus. But the 12 special disciples that Jesus called are *the apostles*. He calls them to full-time service in Jesus' earthly ministry. The word "apostle" means "sent." They are the ones that Jesus calls *and then sends* into the world to lead His earthly ministry. Today, we call them *pastors*. If you choose Jesus, you are a disciple...or as we say here at Forest Hills, *a disciple who makes disciples*. But some of us, like Pastors Andrew, Cassi, Dan, and myself, we are called to the *apostolic ministry* of leading Jesus' continued ministry on earth. And that's why Jesus calls them to stop fishing for fish—their secular careers—and start fishing for people, making His ministry their careers. That's why in verse 11, Andrew, Peter, James and John all leave their fishing boats and go follow Jesus. It was a career change for them.

I just can't help but wonder about poor Zebedee, the father of James and John. First his sons and their partners run off to go see John the Baptist, leaving him with the fishing business. And then, after they return from their vacation, they all suddenly leave him permanently! I wonder what he thought about Jesus. And Simon's mother-in-law at his house: "Hey, what about me? Whose going to pick up the pieces here...and pay the bills?"

I trust it all worked out, but neither Luke nor the other writers give any more details!

So, back to our question above, we in the crowd. This is not a calling for all of us to leave our careers in order to follow Jesus. That was just for these apostles. But we do take away the application that even we are called to leave our former godless lives and to follow Jesus. That means *living differently*—as Jesus’ disciples—while still at our secular careers. Another application.

**PP12:** *Image of Jesus reaching out to touch the man with the skin disease*

Now, we’re going to keep going here, because Luke connects the next story to this one. It also has to do with healing. Keep in your minds Peter kneeling down in front of Jesus saying that he’s not worthy. Peter is unclean, sinful, spiritually diseased. Yet Jesus lifts him up and calls him to follow Him. What’s going on? Can this Jesus redeem spiritual disease, sinfulness? That’s why Luke includes the next story! Matthew and Mark only record these two stories in passing, but Luke really unpacks them. Why? Because he’s trying to show that Jesus, as the Savior, has spiritual authority and power. And the one way that we can see that is through physical validations.

**PP#13:** Luke 5:1-36 (CEB)

12 Jesus was in one of the towns where there was also a man covered with a skin disease. When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged, “Lord, if you want, you can make me clean.”

So, let’s keep going. Verse 12. “Jesus was in one of the towns [so He was on the road again, and now He has some disciples in tow] where there was also a man covered with a skin disease.” The word here is a broad term that was used for a number of skin diseases. Leprosy was one of them. Doctor Luke, unlike Matthew and Mark, diagnoses *the extent* of the disease, noting that he was *covered*...a wide spread condition, and a spiritual metaphor. “When he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged, ‘Lord, if you want, you can make me clean.’”

Make a note to this verse and write, “Already has faith.” The man already believes that Jesus has the power and authority to heal him. I don’t know if he witnessed Jesus’ healings back in Capernaum, or if he believed Jesus’ teaching. But the man puts it all on Jesus’ *decision*, not power. “Lord, if you want....” He does not question Jesus’ *ability* to heal.

There is a spiritual overtone here. The man doesn’t ask Jesus to *heal* him. He asks Jesus to *clean* him. This is a spiritual way of talking about physical illness. Physical maladies were considered unclean at the temple. They were believed to be an outward expression of spiritual sin. So, they’re not just talking about a rash here. The man is asking, “Would you possibly choose to cleanse me, inside and out?”

**PP#14:** Luke 5:1-36 (CEB)

13 Jesus reached out His hand, touched him, and said, “I do want to. Be clean.” Instantly, the skin disease left him. 14 Jesus ordered him not to tell anyone. “Instead,” Jesus said, “go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses instructed. This will be a testimony to them.” 15 News of Him spread even more and huge crowds gathered to listen and to be healed from their illnesses. 16 But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places for prayer.

What does Jesus do? Verse 13, “Jesus reached out His hand, touched him, and said, ‘I do want to. Be clean.’ Instantly, the skin disease left him.”

Draw a note to verse 12 and say “Compare to Peter above.” Peter also bows down before Jesus. Peter calls Jesus Master, the man calls Him Lord. Peter admits “I’m diseased spiritually,” and this man admits, “I’m diseased physically.” Jesus then chooses to call Peter as an apostle, and Jesus eagerly chooses to heal this man physically.

As we watch Jesus perform this miracle, we’re asking, “Can Jesus really do this? My goodness, He can! Wow! That’s amazing! He has God’s power! Could He be the Christ?”

But then we ask, “If He is the Christ, *why* is He healing like this? Has He come to heal us of all our physical diseases?” That’s why it’s so important for us to keep watching. Last chapter, when all the people came to be healed by Jesus, Jesus withdrew off by Himself. And now, in this story, Jesus shows that He has power and authority to heal all diseases, spiritual and physical. Jesus performs miracles to prove that He also has the ability to forgive sins. Luke, being a doctor, really makes this connection. Jesus reaches out and touches the man, declaring, “I want to. Be clean!”

You and I, in the crowd, it starts to dawn on us. “Jesus has God’s authority and power. Perhaps He is the Christ.” Then we remember just how unworthy and unclean we are! “But wait...perhaps this Jesus can save us from our sins. And if He can, would He? Would He cleanse me?” As we admit our sinfulness like Peter, we then hear Jesus’ words, “I want to. Be clean!”

Wow, this is Jesus the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior. He has God’s power, and He willingly chooses to heal. We hear Him say, “I do want to!” And if this is who He is, then what do we do about Him? That our key question as we join with Luke in following Jesus!

Let’s finish up. Verse 14. “Jesus ordered him not to tell anyone.” Why? Because Jesus didn’t want the focus to again turn to physical healings. Everyone wants a miracle. But Jesus wants followers. He hasn’t come to be a physical healer. He came to be a spiritual healer. So, He doesn’t want hype about the physical healing. But it doesn’t stay contained.

“‘Instead,’ Jesus said, ‘go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses instructed. This will be a testimony to them.’” Jesus tells the man to follow the Law, and this would also serve as a witness to the Jewish leaders of Jesus’ godly authority and power. It will be a testimony about His ability to cleanse, *inside and out*. But, verse 15, “News of Him spread even more and huge crowds gathered to listen and to be healed from their illnesses.” He just went viral. His physical healings are starting to—pun intended—crowd out His message. Make a note to verse 15 saying, “Mission getting lost, see 5:1 above.” People had been coming to hear Jesus’ preaching. Now they were getting obsessed about His miracles. Jesus feels frustrated. So, verse 16, “But Jesus would withdraw to deserted places for prayer.”

Here is the next listing of Jesus praying in Luke. Add this verse to our list.

[Flip Chart List:

Jesus Praying in Luke:

3:21 Baptism

5:16 Withdrew to pray]

Part of His praying, I believe, is to get away from the throngs. But I think it is also the way Jesus re-centers on His purpose and calling. It would be easy to get caught up into the popularity that miracles bring. But Jesus is not about those miracles. He’s about inner healing. And to stay focused, He needs to go off in prayer regularly.

**PP#15:** *Image for our need to go off and pray with Jesus regularly*

And there's our last application for today. If Jesus needed to go off and pray in order to stay centered in God's will and plan for His life, how much more do we need to regularly go off and pray to stay focused on God's will and plan for our lives. How is your prayer life? Prayer is vital—absolutely critical—to stay in tune with God. So, one last note, drawn to verse 16, write, “How's my prayer life?”

Amen.

**SONG:** *Have It All* -Sanctify

**OFFERING:** -Pastor David

-Give of your monies to God's work through this church. You can give in person, mail it in, drop it off or, most conveniently, you can make an electronic transfer or a debit card payment on the church website or by using the “square” on the bulletin.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** -Pastor David

Wednesday night: Chili, and groups

Next Sunday's message: The Son of Man: Unimaginable Things

Read ahead: Luke 5:17-39

**MEMORY VERSE** -Pastor David

“Jesus reached out his hand, touched him, and said, ‘I do want to. Be clean.’ Instantly, the skin disease left him.” Luke 5:13

**BENEDICTION** -Pastor David

**POSTLUDE** -Sanctify