



# **STORIES OF LIFE!**

**The Gospel of Luke**

## **A Story to Follow**

**Luke 5:1-11**

**Message #14 of 50 – S789**

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**Sunday Morning Service**

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# A Story to Follow

***Luke 5:1-11***

## Opening Comments

- Turn to **Luke 5**
- We continue a study through the Gospel of Luke – **The Stories of Life**
- One of the radical things about being in the ministry is watching God do the miraculous
- He seems to love taking the ordinary things and people of this world and making them extraordinary
- It is as if He loves to show off His power, grace, and mercy
- We get to see that today
- Let's pray and then look at those things
- **Pray**

## Teaching

- **A Story to Follow**
- Jesus continues His earthly ministry
- **Luke 5:1-2**
- Jesus' message and mission from the very beginning was to teach people about the kingdom of God, until it was time for Him to die on the cross, so the way could be opened for people to enter God's kingdom through His sacrifice for sins
- Lake Gennesaret = Sea of Galilee = Sea of Tiberias
- 'multitude' – thousands wanted to hear the radical message of the carpenter from Nazareth
- The last time we saw Jesus teaching was in the synagogues
- Here He is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee
- Jesus went where the story of the kingdom of God could be told
- That is the attraction of social media to me – it is where the multitudes are gathering
- **Luke 5:3**
- Simon = Peter – Jesus named him Peter – Mark 3:16

- Simon Peter has been following Jesus' story since the beginning **John 1:40-42**

One of the two who heard John *speak*, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

- Simon and his brother Andrew are professional fishermen and they were partners with James and John
- As Jesus was teaching, the multitudes were crowding Him into the sea
- So, he adapted His technique so that he could continue to teach
- That is an important principle for the church – the story of Jesus is changeless – but the techniques for communicating that message change with every generation
- Then Jesus does something that I believe is very personal, though very public
- Let's set the scene – Jesus is in the boat with Simon and probably Andrew – maybe drowsy from fishing all night
- Simon and Andrew have probably heard Jesus teach lots of times
- They have seen Him work miracles – even mother-in-law
- They have been following His story
- But Jesus looks at Simon and realizes something is missing
- And so, Jesus does something to wake Simon Peter up spiritually
- **Luke 5:4-7**
- These professional fishermen had fished all night and caught nothing
- Jesus, the carpenter from Nazareth, tells them to let down their nets for a catch
- Get huge haul of fish – nets breaking – need help to pull it all in
- What happened – could Jesus see a school of fish just waiting to be caught
- I've been tuna fishing a few times – tuna boiling on bait fish – go there and catch tuna – that's not what happened
- Jesus called Simon to an act of faith and obedience
- Simon responded in obedience – though not in total faith
- In a raw manifestation of the power of God over creation Jesus brought more fish than their nets could hold
- People often focus on the miraculous catch as the point of the miracle

- Apply it to evangelism – in faith and obedience – let down the nets and Jesus will fill them with lost souls – I believe that, but it is not the point of the miracle – verse 8 is
- **Luke 5:8**
- This is not the first miracle Simon Peter has seen – healings – demons cast out – lots of times – what was special about this one?
- Peter was a professional fisherman – fishing was his point of strength
- Confident – convinced he didn't need anyone's help – didn't need God to be a fisherman
- As amazing as Jesus was, Peter believed he was greater than Jesus in his place of strength
- When Peter let down those nets, he didn't believe it would result in anything – he did not believe that they would catch any fish
- Jesus burst supernaturally into Peter's personal universe
- Proved to Peter that He was greater than Peter's greatest strength
- While this miracle was very public, I believe it was intended to minister to Simon Peter personally
- God still does that – miracles – everyone sees it, but one or a few respond in faith
- Three things I want you to see from Simon Peter's response
- Simon has a new awareness as a result of this miracle
- First – **Who Jesus is**
- Even before the miracle Peter had a great respect for Jesus – verse 5 'Master'
- Verse 8 – 'Lord' – only God could do what Jesus just did
- Jesus would later ask the disciples who they believed He was
- **Matthew 16:16**
- **Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**
- 'You are God the Son sent by the Father to save us!'
- Second – **Who Peter is**
- 'I am a sinful man' – Turn to **Isaiah 6**
- Peter was probably no worse than any other man on the boats
- But in the presence of the perfection of the Christ, the Messiah, God the Son, Peter became painfully aware of who he was
- The prophet Isaiah had a similar experience

- **Isaiah 6:1-4**

- Isaiah is given a vision of the perfection of the glory of God and His throne in heaven

- And just as the posts of the door are shaken, Isaiah is shaken

- **Isaiah 6:5**

- Anytime you are confronted with God's glory, power, or holiness, it ought to make us aware of who we really are

- Turn back to **Luke 5**

- Third thing Simon Peter was aware of – **Christ's Mission**

- None of the disciples fully grasped what Jesus was doing

- But what Simon Peter believed was there was no way that Jesus and he could be on the same path

- Peter is saying, 'I am too messed up to walk this path with you.'

- Simon says, 'Depart from me...' – that is a prayer God will never answer – believer – no matter how bad you are – never depart!

- Over the years I have talked with many people who believed they were too broken to be useful to God – maybe someone here

- What Jesus tells Simon next is powerful

- **Luke 5:9-10**

- Saying, Simon, as messed up as you are, I have a use for you

- In God's kingdom, there are no useless people, just people who won't let God use them

- Peter thought he was useless to the mission of Christ

- Jesus took Peter from right where he was and used him to help fulfill Christ's mission

- Jesus came teaching about the kingdom of God – telling the story of God and His infinite love for those He created

- Before He left, Jesus told His disciples to keep telling the story

**Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even to the end of the age.*" Amen.

- There are three great moments in the life of every believer

- These moments mark changes or transitions in their life

- First one – **Conversion**
  - There is a moment in every believer's life when they decided to believe in Jesus – to accept His sacrifice for their sins – to repent of their sins
  - Second – **Consecration**
  - The next big moment is the day they choose to let the Holy Spirit begin the process of changing them to be like Christ
  - For some people this happens right after Conversion
  - For others it takes years of living as a worldly believer
  - At some point they choose to abandon to world's ways for the ways of God
  - Third – **Commission**
  - Simon Peter thought he was useless to the mission of the Christ
  - Jesus knew better than Peter did
  - Jesus looks around the church and does not see useless sinners, but He does see unused saints
  - Jesus saved you so that you could be with Him forever in heaven, but also so that you could join Him in His mission to invite others into the kingdom of God **1 John 2:5-6**
- But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**
- Jesus came to tell the story of God's kingdom
  - Jesus has commissioned each of us to 'walk just as He walked' – to tell the story of Christ in the world
  - The miraculous catch and the conversation between Jesus and Simon Peter impacts everyone there
  - **Luke 5:11**
  - They walked away from two boatloads of fish, the family business, and the comforts of home to follow Jesus
  - Occasionally, God will call someone to 'forsake all and follow Jesus'
  - I think of Pastor Brandon Ingraham in Indonesia
  - Usually, it is not that dramatic
  - In 2002, God called me to leave a career I had invested 20 years into to become a pastor

- I have discovered that there is nothing that I can forsake to follow Jesus that he can't replace with something infinitely better
- Once you start to follow Jesus, you realize there is no other life for you
- Jesus once asked His disciples if they wanted to leave **6:68**  
**But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."**
- God is writing a story in your life – the story of Jesus
- Your mission in this world is to tell that story
- How you do it will be based on how God made you
- God made Simon Peter a fisherman – Jesus commissioned him to be a fisher of men
- God made you in a special way to tell the story of Jesus
- Through your words, relationships, and the good you do
- One of the best ways to figure out what God made you for is to get connected to the life of the church
- There is something mysterious that takes place when the people of God gather – The Holy Spirit moves in power
- The more you involve yourself in the life and activities of the church, the more you experience that
- And He will reveal to you what He created you for
- Simon Peter and the others responded by forsaking all and following Jesus
- He could have said no, and kept on catching fish – living an ordinary life
- But by saying yes to Jesus, his life became extraordinary
- A little over two years later he preached and three thousand were saved – wrote two amazing letters and influenced the gospel of Mark
- Simon Peter lived an extraordinary life because he lived the story God wrote about Jesus into his life
- No Christian needs to live an ordinary life, because we have an extraordinary God who has written an extraordinary story of Jesus in our life
- Let's go live the extraordinary stories God wrote about Jesus
- **Pray!**