



LUKE

Luke 5- Miracles, Healings, and Parties

OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon.)

READ Luke 5

- ☀ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ☀ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the Scripture.)

Open: When were you unhappy for something new to arrive or to be offered that threatened to displace the old thing or way you were comfortable with?

1. Read verses 1-4. Put yourself in the place of Peter in this story. Think about what he would normally do day after day, and then imagine Jesus suddenly appearing and asking for help, and then asking you to do something in your own area of expertise. What might be going through Peter's mind in this story? Why does the huge catch of fish cause Peter to react the way that he does in verses 5-11?
2. Many of the ancient Jewish purity laws were the equivalent of what today we think of as normal hygienic practice. They were intended to prevent the spread of disease. This explains why Jesus told sufferers to go and show themselves to the priests. If someone wanted a clean bill of health, it was the priests job to examine the person and declare them clean. What is so significant about how Jesus heals the leper?
3. What do we learn about Jesus' priorities as we read verses 15-16? In light of this, how would you assess your own schedule and the demands of your time?
4. Read verses 17-39. The Pharisees were a pressure group, not an official body. This is the first time Luke has introduced us to them. The Pharisees' agenda was to intensify observance of Jewish law, which they believed would create conditions for God to act, as he had promised, to judge the pagans who were oppressing Israel. Why would the Pharisees gather like this to check out Jesus? Why were they so upset by Jesus words and actions?
5. In what ways are verses 31-32 a "mission statement" for Jesus? What is Jesus teaching in verses 33-39 and how does this challenge the Pharisees?

"What Jesus is doing is putting into effect the new world that God is bringing about- and the old ways just don't fit it...The crowds struggle because novelty is deeply threatening, especially when people have built their lives around the old way."

-NT Wright

NEXT STEPS

- ☀ How has Jesus brought "newness" into your life? Luke 5 calls us to see the newness that Jesus brings, and to see where we are living as though the new age was still the norm, as though the new life of the gospel had never burst in upon us. Where in your life do you still live as if the old age was still in effect?
- ☀ Sit in silence for a few minutes and ask the Lord to touch the areas of your life that you identified in question 3. Pray for the new kingdom and the power of Jesus to reign in that place.

*this study is adapted from N.T. Wright's "For Everyone" Study Guide on Luke

[1] On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, [2] and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. [3] Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. [4] And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." [5] And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." [6] And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. [7] They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. [8] But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." [9] For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, [10] and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." [11] And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

[12] While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." [13] And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately the leprosy left him. [14] And he charged him to tell no one, but "go and show yourself to the priest, and make an offering for your cleansing, as Moses commanded, for a proof to them." [15] But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. [16] But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray.

[17] On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. [18] And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, [19] but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. [20] And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." [21] And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" [22] When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? [23] Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? [24] But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." [25] And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. [26] And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

[27] After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, "Follow me." [28] And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

[29] And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. [30] And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" [31] And Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. [32] I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

[33] And they said to him, "The disciples of John fast often and offer prayers, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours eat and drink." [34] And Jesus said to them, "Can you make wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? [35] The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days." [36] He also told them a parable: "No one tears a piece from a new garment and puts it on an old garment. If he does, he will tear the new, and the piece from the new will not match the old. [37] And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be destroyed. [38] But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins. [39] And no one after drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"