

Luke 5:1-16

The Calling of the First Disciples

¹ One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ² he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

The Man With Leprosy

¹² While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean."

¹³ Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him.

¹⁴ Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them."

¹⁵ Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. ¹⁶ But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Luke 5:1-26

1. Have you ever participated in a project on which everyone worked very hard, only to experience failure? How did you feel? How would you feel if someone completely unconnected with the project and with no expertise in the area came along and told you to start over?
2. How did Simon respond to Jesus' instructions to cast their nets again? (Vs 5) What was the purpose of this? Was Jesus testing Simon's faith?
3. What are the areas in your life where God requires long-term obedience from you in spite of failures?
4. How did Simon react when he realized that Jesus had just done a miracle for them? (Vs 8-9)
5. How did Simon and the others respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him? (Vs 11) In what way is Simon's reaction an example for us to follow? What do you need to leave behind today in order to follow Christ?
6. How did the leprous man present his request to Jesus? Did it show that he believed in Christ? How did his words and actions provide a pattern for us to approach Christ with our needs?
7. After Jesus touched the man and cured him of leprosy, why did he have to show himself to the priest? (Leviticus 13 and 14)
8. What person in your life could most benefit from a caring touch from you in the name of Christ?
9. Re: Verse 16. How important is it for us to imitate the private life of Jesus?
10. What did Jesus acknowledge as the paralytic man was lowered from the roof? What were his first words to him? (Vs 20) Is forgiveness a kind of healing?
11. Why did the Pharisees think that Jesus' words to the paralytic man were blasphemous?
12. What question did Jesus ask the Pharisees? (Vs 21) What is the answer? Why is one easier to say than the other?
13. From whom do we need forgiveness? To whom should we give forgiveness?