

Series: The Gospel of Luke  
Text: Luke 5:1-11  
March 22, 2015: Gospel Community Study Guide

*This Study Guide is based on a sermon by Dr. Joshua Mack. You will find the link to the sermon here.*

<http://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?sid=326151027384>

### **Getting Started:**

I wonder if you have ever been in a Bible study where someone asked, “What does this passage mean to you?”

Can you think of some of the problems with a question like that? What would be a better question to ask instead?

While we shouldn't ask what does the passage mean to me, but instead what does the passage mean, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't ask, how does this passage apply to my life? We have to ask that question!

What are some reasons asking how a passage applies to your life is so important?

### **Remembering the Message:**

Over the past several weeks we have been learning a lot of information about Jesus' ministry. In chapter 5:1-11, Luke shows us how we ought to respond to everything we have heard.

- Have someone summarize the story of Luke 5:1-11 in their own words.
- Was there anything that you would add to their telling of the story?
- What were some of the wrong responses to Jesus that we saw in Luke 4? What can we learn from Peter about the right response to Jesus?
- Can anyone remember the five characteristics of a true follower of Christ that we talked about this past Sunday?

### **The Big Idea:**

This story is a pattern for all who would follow Jesus. If you want a picture of what happens when someone becomes a true follower of Christ, you find it here. In fact, this story can be a kind of mirror for us to evaluate our own response to Jesus. Are we merely one of the people in the crowd who are interested in Jesus, or have we truly become one of Jesus' disciples?

### **Into the Text:**

Before we can become a follower of Christ, we must hear His Word. Describe some of the opportunities we know about where Simon had the opportunity to talk to Jesus or listen to Jesus speak. (Hint: at this point in Luke 5, there are at least three that we know about for sure.)

Even though Simon had heard Jesus, we don't really know at the beginning of this story whether he is a committed follower of Jesus or not. What we do know is that Jesus is clearly pursuing Simon. After preaching, what question does Jesus ask Simon?

What are some reasons this seems like a strange question? What are some of the excuses Simon might have given for not wanting to do what Jesus asked?

Ultimately, in this very mundane, average kind of situation, Jesus is testing Simon to see who does he really see as the Lord over His life. This is the crisis point for Simon. He has his own knowledge and his own experience on this side and he has what Jesus is asking him to do on this side, and he has to make a choice. The choice he makes demonstrates whether or not he really has faith. We sometimes think faith is demonstrated most through what we say at church or in religious settings, but sometimes the best way faith is revealed is in how we act in ordinary situations when God's Word conflicts with what we think.

Though Simon says they toiled all night, they would do what Jesus asked, and what is the reason he gives? (Hint, look at the phrase that follows the word "but.")

What happens after Simon submits to the authority of Jesus? Why do you think Jesus chose to do this particular miracle? What does this miracle say about Jesus?

For Simon and his business partners, fish equaled money. How would you expect him to respond to this large catch of fish? What do we find him doing instead? What is strange about that?

Even more strange than how Simon is acting is what Simon says. What does Simon tell Jesus and why is that such a strange request? What is going on in Simon's heart that causes him to ask this?

If all you have ever done is look at Jesus and think to yourself how can I get him to do something for me, then you haven't really seen Jesus yet. Anyone who has ever entered into a genuine relationship with Jesus has at some point been brought low before him and cried out in their own words, God be merciful to me the sinner. And in many ways Simon's posture here is the posture all of us should have after studying what Luke has told us so far about Jesus. If we are really listening as Luke puts the glory of Jesus on display, we should be asking, can a person like me really be loved and used by a person like him?

As you look at this text, how would you summarize Jesus' response to that question?

How does Simon respond to this stunning demonstration of grace? What does he do? What does that say about Simon's attitude towards Jesus? We sometimes look at what Simon did as something so hard, but does it seem from this story, that's how Simon would have thought about it?

**Summing Up:**

It is not enough to simply know a lot of information about Jesus, you must do something with what you have learned. In this story we have discussed, we have seen the way God wants us to respond. What stood out to you from our discussion of Peter's response?

**To Think About:**

What would it look like for someone to value Christ above everything else?

Is there any area in your life that you haven't submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ that you would like to pray for us about?

What are some of the main encouragements or challenges you have taken from what we have studied together today? Is there any specific word of praise you would like to give to God for what you have learned about Jesus today?

How about questions? Do you have any thing you are still wondering from what we have talked about? What are some of the practical differences what you studied makes on your life? What would you like to share with someone else? Is there any specific issue that this study has brought up that you want the members of your gospel community to be praying for you about?