

The Great Physician

Luke 5:1-16

- Jesus is now fully engaged with His public ministry but just as He had bided His time before launching out He'll take His time preparing those whom He calls into His service. They will come from all walks of life > fishermen, tax collectors, political zealots, and He will tell each one of them that if they followed Him that He would make them fishers of men. All the disciples knew about being a fisherman, the long hours, the patience that it took, the grimy, smelly, aroma that attached itself to you, but also once you completed the task the satisfaction of a great catch.

V1-16

- **V1-3** Jesus reputation has now began to spread across the area of Galilee and anywhere He went people would be eager to hear Him. Before He came on the scene for over **400yrs** there had been silence from God, as there was nothing but dead rituals, and man made religion, but once Jesus begins to teach and speak there is now revival. The people who were once apathetic toward God and His Word are now hungry, even starving to hear His Word.
- **Ecc1 3:11** says man has a hole an emptiness that needs to be filled, and success, money, career, achievement, self-gratification, nothing that we try and fill that gap apart from Jesus will suffice, as everything other than Jesus will leave us empty and dissatisfied. This is where the believer should come in with the message of hope, which is the gospel of love that will lead to a life of purpose and joy, sadly we listen to the lie of **"they don't want the truth"** especially from me, so we end up doing nothing, but we must remember this is exactly what they need amen!.
- As Jesus is being surrounded by the crowds He still has time for individuals and specifically for those who are diligently serving Him. H gets into one of the boats and it happens to be Peter's and He tells him to push off into the waters, in other words lets catch some fish. **V3** shows Jesus taking the position of a teacher, (sitting down) as class is about to begin and a major lesson for all is about to begin, but only those who are teachable will be able to receive it.
- **V4-5** the guys have already been out all night fishing and caught nothing, they'd even began washing and stretching out and dry the nets to avoid them from rotting. We know that as many as seven of the disciples were fishermen and so to hear the Lord to tell them to go back out wasn't a lesson that they were excited to learn, because like many of us this was one of those things that they thought they didn't need any teaching on. Peter speaks up saying "we have been out all night and now its day, the fish have gone out into the deep, and so its too late.
- What Peter is saying is **"Lord You're a Teacher we're fishermen, You stick with what You know and let us do what we know"**, then he follows up with **"nevertheless"** I'll do what you ask" meaning I'll do it but nothing is going to come from this but a gigantic waste of time. Its interesting how **"we can try and prepare the Lord for failure because of our unbelief"**. I think we've all been here where we're tired I worked all night, and I want to do this but later.

- **V6-9** to Peter's and everyone else's amazement there was such a great catch that the boat began to sink and they needed the other boats to come and take some of the fish so everyone was able to benefit from this tremendous blessing. Upon seeing this Peter humbles Himself that even thought that he knew anything more than Jesus, even in the things that we believe we know best in life in comparison to the Lord we know absolutely nothing.
- But what Peter should have paid attention to was the phrase "**At Your Word**" remember **At God's Word** "there was light", **At Your Word** "the sun, moon, stars and planets were created", **At Your Word** "life came to this world", **At Your Word** "creation is held together and sustained", **At Your Word** "empires rise and fall, history unfolds Your great plan. So we should never rely on our own expertise and knowledge above what we know God can do as nothing is impossible for Him. Something really interesting to this point as notice in **V4** Jesus said "let down your nets" plural, but in **V5** when they go out Peter only let down 1 net, singular.
- As great as a catch this was Peter because of his pride and belief that he knew better than the Lord limited the catch because he would not believe that God's instruction in the area of his expertise should be followed, and because of this he limited the catch as the Lord had more for them. I know some of you are smart in certain areas but don't let that get in the way of God working supernaturally beyond what you can ask or think to bless you and those around you.
- **V10-11** afterward they leave the family fishing business to follow Jesus, sometimes to follow Jesus it may take us leaving what we know best, (family, jobs, business) in order to follow Jesus in the way that He desires. Jesus knew that it took this kind of miracle for Peter and the rest of the disciples to truly understand that it's no longer them doing things their way, but it's God doing things His way, and us trusting that the Lord knows what's best.
- **V12-16** after Peter has fallen down on his knees in complete surrender to the Lord now he was ready to help others kneel as well, folks until others see that we've bent the knee in surrender how can they believe that it's what is needed in their life? In the ancient world Leprosy was the worst thing that could happen to anyone as there was no cure and to this day there still isn't. Being full of Leprosy this man had no hope, when you're in this state people were considered dead while being alive, in the Jewish Talmud there were sixty-one things that made you unclean, and out of the sixty-one things Leprosy was **60th**, the only thing worse than Leprosy was death.
- The Jewish religious leaders called it "**the finger of God**" as they considered it God's judgment upon our secret sins, so if you had it it's because there was something you had done and weren't telling anyone because if not why would God give anyone such a terrible disease. This man was desperate as being in this state he wasn't supposed to be near anyone and yet he comes to Jesus and declares "if You are willing, You can make me clean" he had more faith in Jesus than Peter and the disciples did in the lesson of the fishes, and remarkably Jesus puts out His hand and touches him and says "I Am willing" and immediately the leprosy leaves him wow!

- When you had Leprosy you didn't go to the doctor you went to a priest who would diagnose you according to **Lev 13**, and once he declares you unclean then you could have no more contact with family, friends, jobs, no one or nothing, you had to walk at least a **100** paces in front of everyone yelling unclean as you walked for people to avoid you, and they'd place you at a Leprosy colony for you to live out your days until you died and then they'd burn the body.
- Leprosy begins under the surface of the skin and when it shows itself it looks harmless with a little tiny spot, and then it begins to grow and spread into other areas of the body. In the middle stages you could smell a leper **100** ft away and in the latter stages they'd be missing fingers, toes, ears, because the nerve endings are dull and the rotting flesh attracts rats who gnaw on them removing fingers and toes, and for the person it's painless as they can no longer feel anything, not just physically, but emotionally, and mentally.
- For a person who's full of Leprosy the only thing left for them is to die, and yet he comes to the One who gives life. Jesus was breaking all the rules as to touch a Leper made you unclean, and then because it was very contagious now you have it, but remember Jesus said in **Math 9:12-13** that He was the Great Physician, and only those who are sick are in need of Him. I love it He tells him to go and show himself to the priest but don't tell anyone, even if he hadn't everyone around did, and the news spread like wildfire that someone could heal the incurable. People brought their sick, diseased, and feeble to be healed, and Jesus went for prayer and solitude.