

Sunday Sermon Summary

Overview

A warm, practical Sunday gathering focused on the identity and mission of Jesus from Luke 5, with encouragement to wholehearted faith and surrender.

Core Scripture:

Luke 5 (selected verses, ESV)

Announcements & Community Life

- **VBS Summer Camp:** Info meeting today after second service (~1:00 p.m.); volunteers needed. Led by Bonnie.
- **Men's Breakfast:** March 21, 7:30 a.m. at the church.
- **Live Interpretation:** Now available for services—scan a QR code, select your language, listen on your device.
- **Wednesday Night Church:** Studying Colossians; similar format to Sunday.
- **Home Groups:**
 - Pastor's home (with Liz): Sundays, 6:00 p.m. (fellowship/food, then Bible study & prayer)
 - Prescott/Jenkins/Winona's: Sundays, 6:00 p.m.
 - Thursday group: 6:30 p.m.
- **Adult Singles Game Night:** 2nd & 4th Fridays.
- **Church Communication:** Join Telegram by texting the church number to be added to groups for updates.

Correction & Humility

- **Leprosy Clarification:** Last week's medical details were corrected—leprosy is caused by a slow-moving bacteria, not a virus; previous description mixed with details about type 1 diabetes. Pastor models humility and a willingness to correct mistakes.

Sermon: The Identity and Mission of Jesus (Luke 5)

Setting the Scene

- **Context:** Jesus is fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy—preaching good news, healing, setting captives free.
- **Key Point:** These miracles are not just acts of kindness; they point to Jesus' deeper mission: establishing God's kingdom, first in our hearts.

The Healing of the Paralytic (Luke 5:17–26)

- **Story Recap:** Friends bring a paralyzed man to Jesus. Unable to get through the crowd (including skeptical Pharisees), they lower him through the roof.
- **Jesus' Response:** “Man, your sins are forgiven you.” Then, to prove his authority, Jesus also heals him physically.
- **Lesson on Faith:**
 - Faith is tied to desperation and recognizing who Jesus is.
 - The friends' determination shows clarity about their need and Jesus' sufficiency.
 - The Pharisees, present as judges, miss the point due to skepticism.
- **Visible & Invisible:** Jesus demonstrates his authority over both physical and spiritual needs—healing the body to show he can forgive sins.
- **Response:** The crowd marvels at the miracle, but many leave unchanged—contrasted with Peter's earlier response of personal conviction and surrender.

The Calling of Levi (Matthew) (Luke 5:27–32)

- **Levi's Story:** Sitting at his tax booth, Jesus simply says, “Follow me.” Levi leaves everything behind without hesitation.
- **Contrast:**
 - Levi responds instantly, without seeing a miracle—he's ready for a new life.
 - Pharisees witness miracles but remain unmoved.
- **Application:**
 - Some people need only an invitation; others resist, satisfied with the status quo.
 - Jesus calls not the self-righteous, but those who recognize their need.

The New and the Old (Luke 5:33–39)

- **Fasting Question:** Pharisees wonder why Jesus' disciples aren't fasting like others.

- **Jesus' Answer:**

- While the Bridegroom (Jesus) is present, it's a time for celebration, not mourning.
- When he leaves, then fasting will be appropriate.

- **Parables:**

- New patch on old garment, new wine in old wineskins—Jesus brings something entirely new, not a patch for the old system.
- The gospel cannot simply be added to our old ways; it requires leaving behind the old for the new.
- People tend to prefer what's familiar, even if something better is offered.

Key Takeaways & Reflections

- **Desperation & Openness:** God often works in those who know their need—like the paralytic and Levi—rather than the self-sufficient.
- **Faith Response:** True faith is not just admiration or amazement, but surrender and following.
- **The Gospel's Demand:** Jesus calls us to leave behind self-reliance, pride, and even our religious “status quo” for a new life in him.
- **Warning & Encouragement:** Be careful what you pray for—asking God to lead you into deeper trust may lead to uncomfortable but transforming places.

Closing Prayer

- Gratitude for God's grace and newness in the gospel.
- Request for clarity, humility, and a willingness to leave the old behind and follow Jesus wholeheartedly.
- Blessing over the fellowship and the rest of the day.

“It doesn't take a smart person to know they're hopeless, it just takes clarity.”

—Pastor's closing encouragement

Blessings to you all!