

ACCEPTING GOD'S INVITATION

Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)

❖ The Truth of Today:

- God invites you to be GOD-CENTERED, not SELF-CENTERED.

❖ To Receive God's Invitation:

1. You must have a PURE heart.

Early the next morning Jesus went out to an isolated place. The crowds searched everywhere for him, and when they finally found him, they begged him not to leave them. ⁴³But he replied, "I must preach the Good News of the Kingdom of God in other towns, too, because that is why I was sent." ⁴⁴So he continued to travel around, preaching in synagogues throughout Judea.

Luke 4:42-44 (NLT)

One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. ²He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. ³Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon, its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.

Luke 5:1-3 (NLT)

"God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God."

Matthew 5:8 (NLT)

2. You Must Actively Look for God's Invite.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." ⁵"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

Luke 5:4-5 (NLT)

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish."

Luke 5:4 (NLT)

"Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."

Luke 5:5 (NLT)

3. Allow God to use your TALENTS for His purpose.

And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! ⁷A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

Luke 5:6-7 (NLT)

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

4. Know there is a BLESSING behind the invite.

When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man."⁹ For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him.¹⁰ His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.

Luke 5:8-10 (NLT)

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

Matthew 25:23 (NIV)

Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"¹¹ And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Luke 5:10b-11 (NLT)