

## The Gospel According To LUKE

### Chapter 5

## “How To Follow Jesus”

### FIVE STEPS:

#### > Step #1- Listen to Jesus! (v1-3)

- **The Word of God is inspirational, illuminating, infallible, inerrant, authoritative & all sufficient!** 2 Tim 3:16 - *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God; Ps 119:105 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path 2 Tim 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Heb 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Rom 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
  - **“Launch out into the deep”** - Follow His instructions and discover the deep things of God & His abundant love.
  - **Peter used the word “Master” (Gk. - Epistates)** - In regards to Jesus authority, but not to His instruction.
  - **“Toiled all night & caught nothing”** - They’re tired & frustrated—How about you?
  - **Our biggest problem “But” - Wavering faith- James 1:6-8 - But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**
  - **Even in our reluctance Jesus will work with us- “nevertheless at your word I will let down the net”** - God always blesses His Word- Isa 55:11 - *So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (“they caught a great number of fish and their net was breaking”).* Peter’s public ministry began in Acts ch. 2 - Three thousand are saved! John Wesley once said, “Don’t worry about how to get a crowd to preach to. Just go out and catch fire and people will come to watch you burn.” (Salvation “Local Style”- Queen Kapiolani (1841)) We are commanded in Mark 16:15-16 - *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”*
- > Step #2 - Touch others with Christ love! (v12-15)**
- (v12) Leprosy:** One commentator writes about the three tragedies of leprosy: (1) **Physically** it begins with little pain, then it goes on in its sluggish but sure course, until it mutilates the body, deforms the features, turns the voice into a croak, and makes the patient a hopeless wreck. The gradual decay of the body, first of the skin, then the bone, then the flesh, life still surviving, vividly represented the sure and deadly process of man’s ruin by sin. (2) **Spiritually**, leprosy typified sin, and its treatment represented the separation which sin makes between sinners and saints. The law is the inspired interpreter of nature’s truths. The leper was a “walking tomb,” “a parable of death,” and of sin “the wages of which is death.” Hence he had to wear the badges of mourning, a covering upon his upper lip, and was regarded “as one dead” (Lev 13:45; Num 12:12). He was to cry, “Unclean! Unclean!” to warn all not to defile themselves by approaching him. (3) **Socially**, the leper was unable to live with his family, function within society, and he was excommunicated from the worship community. His life was lonely, empty and painful.
- (v13-15) Jesus loves us!** He hears our cry! He touches our agony! He cleanses our lives! Three blessings: (1) **Physically** we receive eternal life! (2) **Spiritually** we receive the Holy Spirit, which creates new life! (3) **Socially** we become part of the family of God forever! Now let’s give Testimony - Tell family, friends & the world about His love for all!



> **Step #3 – Pray! (v16)**

**Jesus teaches us to pray - John 15:7-8 - If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John the beloved wrote in 1 John 5:14-15 - Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

> **Step #4 – Always offer God’s forgiveness! (v17-26)**

(v17-19) **How to be a faithful friend?**

- Faithful friends help those who are paralyzed by sin. (**Help** the helpless!)
- Faithful friends see possibilities in the impossible. (**Conquer** the crowd!)
- Faithful friends work hard for the salvation of others. (**Labor** in love!)

(v20) **What was the paralytics’ greatest need?** The forgiveness of sin.

(v21-24) **What was the religious leader’s greatest need?** To see that Jesus is the Son of God.

(v25-26) **When a person knows they’re forgiven of all their sins they will rise up in the power of Jesus Christ & glorify God!**

> **Step #5 - Follow Me! (v27-39)**

(v27-32) **Jesus saves sinners & the IRS.**

(v33-39) **Don’t follow Jesus religiously follow Jesus in relationship.**

(Notice: We’re the Bride of Christ with new clothes, a robe of righteousness, & new wine which is being filled with the love and joy of the Holy Spirit!)

Without Jesus Christ our souls are leprous. Without Jesus Christ our lives are paralyzed. Without Jesus Christ our destiny is death & damnation.

With Jesus Christ our souls are cleansed! With Jesus Christ we are forgiven of our sins, active & glorifying God! With Jesus Christ we follow Him to heaven forever and we are married to the King of kings and Lord of lords being filled with the new wine of His eternal joy, peace and love!

*For by grace you have been saved through **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.- Eph 2:8-10*