

Talk It Over

The Certainty (Luke 5) He's Calling You Too!

SMALL TALK

1. What was it like when you first left home (for college, the military, a job, marriage, etc.)?

VIEWPOINT

2. **READ Luke 5:1-11.** Picture yourself as Simon. What are you thinking, doing, feeling in verses 1-3?
3. If you were Simon, what do you feel when Jesus speaks to you in verse 4? How would you have responded? Why did Simon go along with the odd request?
4. Why does this event have such a profound effect on Simon? What is he beginning to grasp about Jesus? About sin? About himself?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. How is your "fishing business" going? What do your fishing practices reveal about your view of Jesus? Sin? And about yourself?
6. In your "fishing business" do you view Jesus as (a) interesting, but slightly irrelevant teacher? (b) Potentially a great business partner, if you could only get him to work for you? (c) the one who calls all the shots? Why?

PRACTICE!

How are you doing in these 5 practices?

- Devote Daily
- Pursue Relationally
- Guide Biblically

- Live Authentically
- Engage Missionally

The Certainty

Week 3: He's Calling You Too!

Today is Valentine's day. A day known for love. It is a day where the one who loves pursues the one they love.

Luke explains why he wrote his Gospel, and Acts.

Luke 1:4 (CSB) ...so that you may know the certainty...

Today we learn the certainty that Jesus is pursuing us, and calling us to a life of love.

What is the Roadmap to know the certainty?

HEARING → BELIEVING → LIVING → KNOWING

Peter's sermon, as written up by Luke in *Acts 2:36–38*

(CSB) "Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty

[Luke's purpose for writing was Peter's purpose for preaching] that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

[This is the certainty Luke wants us to know. Then Luke lays out the

roadmap] ³⁷ When they heard [HEARING] this, they were pierced to the heart [BELIEVING] and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles,

"Brothers, what should we do?" [LIVING] ³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

[KNOWING]

Now let's jump into today's topic. Jesus is calling you.

I. Jesus Called SIMON [nicknamed Peter by Jesus. Both names are used in verse 8.]

Luke 5:3 (CSB) He [JESUS] got into one of the boats, which belonged to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from the land...

Peter was minding his own business. He is a fisherman. He was mending and putting away his fishing nets after a long night of unsuccessful fishing. When Jesus has the audacity to get into his boat, and ask him to put out a little from the land... What we see here is how Jesus is doing more than having great spot to speak from to a crowd gathering on the beach. Jesus was also pursuing Peter, though Peter doesn't yet know it, when [Jesus got into Peter's boat](#).

***Luke 5:3 (CSB)** ...Then he [JESUS] sat down and was teaching the crowds from the boat.*

Peter can't help but listen. Jesus is a master teacher. Luke has already told us that when he was 12 he amazed the teachers at the Temple.

What happened here while Jesus was teaching the crowd? [Jesus got into Peter's head](#).

***Luke 5:4–5 (CSB)** When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch." {5} "Master," Simon replied, "we've worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I'll let down the nets."*

We only have the words in front of us, but we can almost hear the tone can't you. Peter is the professional fisherman. Jesus is the teacher. Do you sense the tone behind the words, why are you getting into my business. I'm a professional fisherman. But something he has already heard from Jesus commands respect, and Peter says. "But if you say so."

Great response. Even when Jesus is getting into your business, "If you say so, I will" is what Jesus wants.

We think we know what will make us happy? Wrong. Jesus knows better than we do, what will really make us happy!

"If you say so, I'll do it." Whether the tone was right or wrong, Peter obeyed, and was blessed for it. The boat lurched. He felt the familiar

tug in the nets, but then it was nothing like he'd ever felt before as it is literally about to sink his boat. He calls for help from the other boats!

***Luke 5:8 (CSB)** When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus's knees and said, "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!"*

What's going on here?

- Jesus got into his boat
- Jesus got into his head
- Jesus got into his business
- Jesus got to his heart

What is Peter saying? "Go away from me..." You are holy. I am not even close to holy. You need to keep your distance from me. Jesus surprises Peter again.

***Luke 5:10 (CSB)** ... "Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. "From now on you will be catching people."*

Have you ever felt **INADEQUATE** for the task God has called you to do?

I still frequently feel completely inadequate. But this is a good thing not a bad thing.

***2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)** But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Like faith, a rubber band is only functional when it is appropriately stretched.

If we only do what we know we can do, how much faith is required for that?

Jesus is telling us: "Don't be afraid... I'll be your adequacy".

We take our little steps like a child, while we are holding his hand taking little tiny steps, he is big and taking big steps.

Picture a 4 year old working with Dad and enjoying it. That's how we walk with our heavenly Father. Big things can be done together, and it is quite fun being 4. We can push refrigerators across to floor, or sofa sleepers! Now, with maturity we learn that really it is DAD with the power to move such heavy stuff, but he has fun inviting us to work with him. It is a covenant invitation. It's how his power is made perfect in our weakness. It is coming to know for certain that his power is resting on us.

Out of our inadequacies we pray all the more and see all the more how much our strong heavenly Father is doing. It is a wonderful feeling to see something only God can do, and yet he decides to do it with us. That is how the calling works.

Luke 5:10–11 (CSB) ... “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus told Simon. “From now on you will be catching people.” {11} Then they [Simon, James, & John] brought the boats to land, left everything, and followed him.

II. Jesus Called LEVI

Luke 5:27 (CSB) After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, “Follow me.”

Levi left everything behind and followed Jesus.

Luke 5:28 (CSB) So, leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow him.

Same pattern as Simon Peter in 5:11.

Then, Levi hosted a party to introduce Jesus to his friends. This caused a big controversy.

Luke 5:30–32 (CSB) But the Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” ³¹ Jesus replied to them, “It is not those who

are healthy who need a doctor, but those who are sick.³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Why doesn't he call the righteous? It doesn't work.

***Luke 7:29–30 (CSB)** (And when all the people, including the tax collectors, heard this, they acknowledged God's way of righteousness, because they had been baptized with John's baptism.³⁰ But since the Pharisees and experts in the law had not been baptized by him, they rejected the plan of God for themselves.)*

III. Jesus Called YOU!

***Luke 5:32 (CSB)** I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”*

Jesus is pursuing you, and calling you.

- Jesus got into his boat. How has he pursued you?
- Jesus got into his head. Has Jesus changed your thinking?
- Jesus got into his business. Can you say, “If you say so, I'll do it?”
- Jesus got to his heart. Are you ready to leave “everything behind, and follow Him”?

Leaving “everything behind” for you may not mean changing careers. It does mean changing who you are working for.

***Colossians 3:23 (CSB)** Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people*

Not even for yourself... Do your work to honor the Lord. In doing so, your life will take on new meaning. He is calling you to a life that matters, and makes a difference. The shift is repentance. It's no longer all about you, it is about serving and honoring God and loving others, in everything you do!