**Luke IV**

**Jesus Calls Disciples (to Follow Him)**

Review: Luke 4:14-30 Jesus’ sermon at Nazareth.

This is a paradigmatic sermon in Luke: ie. it sets the tone for the entire book.

Jesus announces that he is the fulfillment of God’s promise—he is the Messiah who, through his ministry, offers salvation to everyone, but especially to the outcast, the poor, the dispossessed, the oppressed, women, Samaritans, and to Gentiles. His message, His good news: (quoting Isaiah 61:1-2)

1. Good news for the poor (in spirit?)

2. Freedom/release for (spiritual) prisoners

3. Healing for the (spiritually) sick (specifically the blind here).

4. Release the (spiritually) oppressed.

5. The favor of the Lord.

This is an excellent summary of Luke’s picture of Jesus.

(remember, we earlier pointed out that Jesus fulfills the messianic expectation through the pattern of his life more than through specific things he does)

Jesus said, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

How is he received? “Everyone praised him.” (v. 15) and “All spoke well of him.”

But, like Simeon said, “He will be a sign spoken against.”

A lot of people really like Jesus until he calls them to repent and to discipleship—until he tells us something we do not want to hear.

Why? Because, as is typical for Luke, Jesus declares that God loves the Gentiles too! (Luke 4:24-27) Elijah was sent to a widow in Zarephath, near Sidon and he healed, not a Jew, but Namaan the Syrian). The Jews are losing their place as a favored people. They don’t like that!

What does Jesus do next?

He brings good news to the poor.

He frees the prisoners/the demon-possessed (Luke 4:31-37)

Jesus heals the sick (Luke 4:38-40, 5:12-14, 17-26)

Jesus releases the oppressed (Luke 4:41)

The kingdom of God has arrived. Let us go out and announce the year of God’s favor.

Coming up:

**Jesus’ first sermon**

**Jesus and discipleship**

**Jesus and women**

**Jesus and prayer**

**Jesus and the poor**

**Opposition to Jesus**

**Jesus and sinners**

**Jesus and Samaritans**

**Jesus goes to Jerusalem**

**Jesus in Jerusalem**

**Jesus dies in Jerusalem**

**The Resurrection of Jesus**

**Jesus and Discipleship**

Luke 5:1-11 Jesus calls Simon (Peter) James and John. Luke is different from Matthew and Mark in that he records a miracle Jesus worked at the time he called the three to follow him.

This helps to explain Mark 1:17 Jesus says, “Come follow me.” At once they left their nets and followed him. “At once” they left their nets. Seems too abrupt.

Now we understand, to some extent, why. From John 1:35-51 we see that Peter Andrew and Philip had already met Jesus, hung out with him for at least a day, and saw him miraculously knowing the heart and mind of Nathanael.

From Luke we know that they had already seen with their own eyes that Jesus is the Messiah—a worker of signs and wonders. This will help explain their willingness to drop their nets.

This is a great illustration of how the gospels are independent and complimentary accounts.

v. 2 Jesus sees some young fishermen, dejected from an entire night catching zero fish. They were fruitless men.

Jesus saw us, living lives with no purpose, no goal, no meaning.

We weren’t fishing for fish. We were fishing for fun, for a thrill, for peace, for pleasure, for a secure retirement

v. 3 Jesus is very spontaneous here. He gets into one of the boats. Come on, guys, what are you waiting for! Jesus teaches.

v. 4 Go out into deep water. A metaphor? No, it was just deep water!

Jesus:Let down your nets.

Peter: I think I know a bit more about fishing than you do. Do you have some sort of radar fish locater I don’t know about? But if you say so…

Luke 5:7 “So they signaled their partners in the other boat.” This is James and John, the other two that Jesus called to follow him in Mark 1.

v. 8 I am a sinful man. Peter is starting to get it. An angel? Elijah?

v. 10b-11

Who here wants to be a disciple of Jesus?

Who here wants to follow the miracle-worker and great Teacher Jesus?

What is Jesus calling you to do?

1. Fish for people (Luke 5:10)

2. Leave everything to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:11)

How is it going? Do you have any “nets” you need to drop? If you don’t drop your nets for Jesus, then the only “fish” you are going to catch are the kind you can eat. Those kind of fish you sell in the market, get a few dollars—enough to live for the next couple of days.

Jesus gave you a new mission—to fish for people!!!

And, like in Luke 5, he is going to send fish into your nets!!!

But you have to throw the nets out!

Again, to do this, you need to drop your worldly nets.

What are these worldly nets you need to drop? Have you truly left everything and followed him? Or have you become comfortable?

Luke 5:27-32 Jesus calls Levi (Matthew). Jesus calls sinners to follow him.

Again, Jesus turns everything upside down. Who is he hanging out with? The Pharisees? No! He is hanging out with tax collectors! (5:29 a crowd of tax collectors!)

Tax collectors work for the enemy. Nearly all of them are corrupt.

What did Levi/Matthew do? (v. 28) “and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.”

Good news for the poor, freedom for the captives, sight for the blind, release for the captives.

v. 29 Note: He did not literally leave, at least not right away. He threw a big banquet!

Luke 5:31 Good news for (those who admit that they are) sinners. The good news is for the sinners, not for the righteous!!

Other discipleship passages: We are skipping Luke 9:1-6 in which Jesus trains his disciples how to evangelize. We already covered that in Matthew.

And call me crazy, but I am going to skip Luke 9:23-27 as well. Whoever would come after me, they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow me.

We covered that in Mark.

We are going straight to Luke 9:57-62 We have read this before, let’s take a fresh look.

v. 57 “I will follow you wherever you go.”

Jesus: “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

Wow! Harsh! It feels like Jesus is trying to talk us out of deciding to be disciples.

Exactly! If he can talk you out of it, then you were never in it!

Jesus: Do you really understand what it means to follow me wherever I go? I am not staying in nice hotels!

Can I bring my non-Christian girlfriend along?

Will I have good internet access so I can keep up with my bros on Counterstrike?

Jesus: Seriously?

Will there be a place where I can get my nails done along the way?

Jesus: Seriously?

Will they be serving carne asada?

No! All we have to serve is good news for the poor, freedom for captives, recovery of sight for the blind, release for the oppressed, and a year of God’s favor.

v. 59-60 Follow me.

Great! I am with you heart and soul Jesus! But first, let me go and bury my father.

(Had his father just died, or is he saying wait until he dies?)

“Let the dead bury their own dead! You, go and proclaim the kingdom. Ouch!

What’s the problem? The problem is “I will follow you but…”

If you are not ready to put the kingdom of God first. Period!!!! Then let us not play religious games.

If he had said, “Amen! Let’s go. By the way, Jesus, I need some quick advice about my father’s funeral… The problem is not going to the funeral. The problem is not being a student, or working, or feeding your family or even going hunting!

v. 61-62 I will follow you, Lord, but….

Jesus: No one who puts their hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.

Ouch! You mean literally never look back? Yes!!!

Lot’s wife looked back, and look where it left her! (Luke 17:32 Remember Lot’s wife)

Q: Have you been looking back? Have you felt the pull of the world?

I will follow you, but…

No! I will follow you. Now, where are we going? Is that your attitude? Really? Will you stay here if that is what God wants? Will you go to Merced in 2022 if that is what God wants?

We are skipping Luke10:38-42 Jesus talks to two women disciples. Mary is the ideal disciple, not Martha, who is all caught up in doing the dishes.

Luke 14:25-35 Counting the cost of discipleship

v. 25 Large crowds. Jesus is not all that impressed with large crowds. He is looking for disciples. I am so glad you are here today. Now, are you willing to be my disciple? Jesus did not chase after people.

v. 26 (parallel passage Matthew 10:37 “Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. Anyone who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

Question at my web site this week: Is God an egotist?

My answer:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son so that all who believe in him would not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

"Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who killed the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing." (Matthew 23:37)

"Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hands; your walls are ever before me." (Isaiah 49:15-16)

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived the things that God has prepared for those who love him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.." (1 John 3:16)

"And I pray that you, being rooted and established on love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." (Ephesians 3:18)

God is not an egotist, but his standard for discipleship is super high!!! And he is not forcing anyone.

v. 27 anyone who does not carry his/her cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. We covered this in Mark.

v. 28-30 Have you counted the cost? What is the cost? v. 33 Everything!!!

Illustration. Hey Jesus, I am here and I am ready to be your disciple.

Jesus: Have you counted the cost?

Yes sir!

Do you have a bank account? I can use that for whatever I want?

Do you have a job? I can ask you to leave it to plant a church?

Do you have a house? Are you willing to sell it to fund a church planting? OK, well, I will let you keep the house for now.

OK. That’s it. I have given up everything I have.

Do you have any children?

Do you have a wife?

I hadn’t thought about that.

OK. We are done now. Let’s get going.

Wait, you have one more thing?

(looks around) I don’t see anything.

Do you have a life? v. 26 “yes, even his own life.”

v. 31-32 What are the terms? Total surrender!

v. 33 Here is the bottom line, and if you are not a disciple, then you are not a Christian, and, presumably, you are not saved.