

## An Invitation Out of The Mess (Luke 5:1-32)

Like a patient with a life-threatening condition, desperate for a doctor's attention, Jesus entered people's lives in the moment of their greatest need. Jesus entered their isolation, shame and fear. He didn't cave into cultural norms or religious practices that kept social outcasts at arm's length. He stepped into their mess and provided a way out. "Follow me" was his invitation out of the mess and it's his invitation still.

### 1. A fisherman's fear | Jesus' invitation to follow (Luke 5:1-11)

Peter was overcome with a deep sense of unworthiness! *"I'm in the presence of holiness and power!"*

*"He fell down"* = A lot like Isaiah 6:1-8! AND Revelation 1:17-18

Peter begins to *"feel a sense of awe (terror even) as he came to terms with the power of Jesus."*

You ever been there? Ever sense the holiness of God? His "otherness"?

Jesus answered Peter's fear with an invitation to follow him.

Peter left what he knew (fishing) to follow the one who knew him through and through.

### 2. A leper's isolation | Jesus' willingness to make clean (Luke 5:12-16)

His body was wasting away, ravaged by disease. He was put out of the community, isolated from everyone else. Considered an outcast.

*"he fell on his face"* from the prison cell of his diseased body, from a place of complete isolation begged

*"If you will, you can make me clean" "If you want to..."*

Going to the priest was like going to your doctor and getting a note that you're all clear!

Jesus entered his isolation and with eagerness healed (and restored) him.

**VV15-16** show us Jesus' priorities!

### 3. A paralytic's desperation | Jesus' authority to forgive (Luke 5:17-26)

Jesus tells the paralyzed man, "your sins are forgiven." The paralyzed man got more than he imagined.

Jesus saw his physical need and went deeper still.

*So that you might know the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins..."*

Son of Man = at times stresses Jesus' humanity but here is a direct reference to Daniel 7:13-15

Jesus has the authority to forgive and shows it - *"rise, pick up your bed and go..."*

### 4. A tax collector's shame | Jesus' reason for coming (Luke 5:27-32)

A wealthy man. Haunted by his occupation? Spiritually bankrupt. Alone.

= shame and disgrace.

**V28** is *"the great reversal of his life"*! He left *everything*. Throws a dinner party to honor Jesus.

Religious authorities were freaking out.

Mark 10:45 is how Jesus would accomplish this mission.

**VV31-32** Do you know you're sick? Are you in denial? Ignoring symptoms?

Repentance = total life change begins with owning up to the fact that you are sick with sin.

"Follow me" is Jesus' invitation out of the mess of sin and shame.

## QUESTIONS

1. What are the four face to face encounters Jesus had in Luke 5? What did he "enter"?
2. Why does the huge catch of fish cause Peter to react the way he does in verses 5-11?
3. If someone wanted a clean bill of health, it was the priest's job to examine the person and declare if the person was clean. If so, then he or she could rejoin his family and community. What is so significant about how Jesus heals the leper?
4. What do we learn about Jesus' priorities as we read 5:15-16? In light of this how would you assess your own schedule and the demands on your time?
5. What was Jesus claiming when he used the term "Son of Man" in 5:24? See Daniel 7:13-15. How does Jesus show his authority to forgive sin?
6. Describes Jesus' interaction with Levi in VV27-19. Why were the Pharisees so upset?
7. In what ways are verses 31-32 a "mission statement" for Jesus?
8. Looking back Luke 5, what encourages you and challenges you?