

Sermon Outline

Called Into Service

Luke 5:1-11

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

This passage marks the transition in Jesus' ministry from gathering the crowds to building the Church. And all of this begins with Jesus preaching by the Genessaret Lake with the help of a fisherman Luke wants us to get to know, one Simon Peter.

I. *Called by the Preaching of the Word* – Luke 5:1-3

- ? “Sitting there, using the boat for a pulpit, he taught the crowd.” – Message
- ? “The world’s a ship on a journey out and the pulpit is its prow.” – Melville

II. *Called by the Providence of God* – Luke 5:4-5

III. *Called by the Power of Holiness* – Luke 5:6-10a

- ? “Master, I’m a sinner and can’t handle this holiness.” – Message

- A. The Holiness of God – the Trishagion around the throne.
 - ? This is God’s essential nature.
 - ? God’s love is holy love, his justice holy justice, his mercy always holy mercy.
- B. The Sinfulness of Man
 - ? Isaiah – “I saw the Lord...I am undone...”

IV. *Called by the Provision of Grace* – Luke 5:10b-11

- A. Grace Bestows Mercy – “Fear not...”; Luke 1:74-75
- B. Grace Bestows Mission – “You’ll be netting people.”
 - ? Isaiah – “Woe!”; “Lo...”; and “Go...”
- The Call of Jesus Christ is a call to himself and to his work in the world

V. *Called by the Persevering Love of God* – John 21

I’d love to report that Simon Peter left everything and never looked back. But later in Luke’s Gospel we will learn that under the pressure of Jesus’ arrest and approaching crucifixion, Peter denied three times that he was a follower of Jesus, or even knew him. But Jesus did not rescind his call on Peter’s life. Once more, Jesus came to Peter on a lake and showed him once again life-transforming grace.

- ? “Children do you have any fish?”
- ? “Simon, do you love me? Feed my sheep.”

In a very real sense this entire congregation is called by these words of Jesus to be an apostolic people – to go and catch; to gather and feed. But I would be remiss if I did not also hold before some this day the opportunity to see and hear in these words a summons – not an invitation! – to abandon all for the Savior’s Mission in the Church and through the Church in the world. If he is calling you, forsake your nets and come to the Savior and Master who will train you to do his bidding.

