

Jesus Appears: To Call

Luke 5:1-11 || Pastor Paul Hahn || 24 January 2021

*To CARE for one another in truth and in love,
To GROW together as followers of Jesus,
To SERVE those God has placed in our path.
– CG Mission Statement*

Icebreaker: What is your favorite children's story? What hints of the gospel might be in the story?

Worship: Isaiah 43:1-2 (*Remain a few moments in worship with this passage. What is God's invitation to you?*)

Sermon Summary for [Luke 5:1-11](#) (*Read the passage before reading the sermon summary.*)

Being a Christian means a commitment to making Jesus our life's center – as Simon, Andrew, James and John do when they leave everything behind to follow Him. But what does it really mean to “follow Jesus”? As it did for His disciples, it begins with Christ calling us ([Mark 10:49](#) / [Isaiah 43:1-2](#)). We cannot follow without His call. It sustains us through our journeys and helps us to weather the most difficult periods of life. And we can be assured of this: Jesus has indeed called each of us to follow Him.

Jesus calls us through the proclamation of His Gospel // We might question whether Christ has called us personally, since we haven't received the dramatic, in-person invitation like His fisher-disciples did. But as Luke shows, most will be called to Jesus through the Gospel being proclaimed ([Luke 4:43](#)). Why? Because Christ came to proclaim the truth about God and His Kingdom. This is truly good and welcome news for all – news that is shared with each of us, whether through the Bible or a friend or a pastor – which then connects with our heart and our soul. What is key is that we hear Jesus offering us Himself, His grace, His love, His victory on our behalf. And we hear Him telling us not to be afraid – not even our sin and brokenness before the power and holiness of God.

Jesus calls us with the power of the Gospel // The call of Jesus is disturbing, disruptive. So we shouldn't try to domesticate how wild and powerful it is. And it's meant to be! When these men are called, they leave *everything* to follow Christ. Their families, reputation, vocation, and financial well-being – all is left behind. And the same is true for us: When Jesus calls us, we will never be the same. Like the disciples, we have been redefined. Something has been done for us – something freely given – which makes everything else (even family and vocation) pale in comparison. We have been caught in the nets of God's grace; it will forever transform our lives.

Jesus calls us to the purpose of the Gospel // Jesus powerfully calls us into His love that we might share it. He wants to make us “fishers of men” just like the first disciples. But the lives and vocations we had before Christ are not erased. Rather, He will change and add depth and meaning to them. Our lives will be reforged into our greater vocation of following Him. It adds definite purpose and ultimate meaning to our lives. This is why the Good News is so powerful and good and holy.

Jesus calls us to the person of the Gospel // It wasn't just that Jesus came to share the Gospel; He is calling us to Himself. Our call isn't to a place or a thing or an idea. It is to Christ. Our Father wants to share His joy with us. But through our fall into sin, our condition is apartness from God. Jesus calls us to come back into the life of God. As Tim Keller wrote, Christ is calling us, saying, “*You were made to follow me, to share my life, my way. You are made to center everything in your life on me, to think of everything in terms of your relationship to me. To serve me unconditionally. That's where you'll find your joy.*”

Discussion Questions (You will not be able to discuss all the questions. Pick the ones you like. Some are personal perspective and application questions for life-transforming discussions.)

- **Through the proclamation of His Gospel:**
 - Do you remember when you first really “heard” the Gospel proclaimed to you? When, where, how? What effect did it have on you? What does “leaving everything to follow Jesus” look like to you?
 - **With the power of the Gospel:**
 - Discuss the power of the Gospel as seen in this passage and also in your own life.
 - When have you reacted to the power of the Lord like Peter did in verse 8?
 - “We may know the whole story of Christianity, yet make no movement. The power that moved Heaven and earth leaves us completely unmoved.” – Soren Kierkegaard
Where are you stuck in following Jesus or stuck in getting started?
 - **To the purpose of the Gospel:**
 - How could you grow in motivation/intentions/skill in being a fisher of men? What steps can be taken?
 - Is being “fishers of men” a solo activity? Why or why not? What examples do we have?
 - If we as a community more deeply defined ourselves as a group of “called out” people by Jesus and to Jesus, how might that change our worship? Our shared community? Our missional life as a church?
 - **To the person of the Gospel:**
 - What does following Jesus the person of the Gospel look like? What hinders or keeps us from this?
 - How has your primary calling to know and follow Jesus redefined and reshaped all of your smaller callings (family, career, finances, relationships, gifting etc.)?
 - What had the most impact on you from the message or this passage?
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Prayer: Pray one another’s prayer requests and that we would grow in our devotion to following Christ, which includes practicing the generous grace of forgiveness. For the weekly Prayer Guide click [HERE](#). Use this guide for personal, group or family prayer times.

Engage & Experience: Generous Grace - Forgiveness *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you* (Ephesians 4:32). As a follower of Christ we are morally obligated to forgive others as He forgave us and to ask for forgiveness from God and others. Who are you angry at right now? Has someone hurt you recently? Do you find it hard to forgive those who have disappointed you? Are you sometimes overwhelmed with frustration or bitterness? Or do you need forgiveness? Maybe you have been disrespectful or unkind and you’re wondering how to ask for forgiveness. Use a website like biblegateway.com to turn to bible texts on forgiveness. Journal and pray over your thoughts about forgiveness. Move toward giving forgiveness or asking for it this week. Share forgiveness struggles and success stories at your next meeting.

Generous Forgiveness Resources

- Bible - [Matthew 6:12-14](#). How does the act of forgiveness affect our relationship with the Father and our call to follow Jesus?
- Forgiveness as a Gift, Miroslav Volf (3 minute video) [HERE](#)
- Book by Miroslav Volf, [Free of Charge: Giving and Forgiving in a Culture Stripped of Grace](#), Chapters 4-6, book available [HERE](#)
- Book by Ken Sande, [The PeaceMaker](#), Chapter 10, book available [HERE](#)