

## **Luke 5v1-11: Jesus Speaks and Everything Changes**

**Brynmawr Family Church**

**9/1/2011**

### **Intro**

Maybe 2010 was particularly hard, routine, just dull – plodding along.

Passage we're gonna look at – life changed in an instant for average blokes – routine transformed by Jesus.

### **PRAY**

### **READ LUKE 5:1-11**

### **SCENE**

Shore of Sea of Galilee – Luke rightly calls a lake – 13km x 8km

Jesus at beginning of ministry – baptised water & Spirit, tested in the desert, proclaimed year of Lord's favour, teaching in Galilee, healing, casting out demons, preaching in synagogues of Galilee.

Chronology – prob before healing in Simon's house

Kingdom is here & His fame is spreading – large crowds. This occasion, pressing in on him to hear Word of God

Sees 2 boats – fishermen washing nets – uses Simon's as a pulpit, sits & begins to teach the Word to the crowd – all can see him and hear him

So far so good – Matt Mark agree. But Luke includes a miracle unique to his gospel.

Familiar story to us – 4 observations; challenge to us individuals & Brynmawr as a church.

#### **1) Active faith rises in Simon's heart in response to the gospel**

Jesus tells them lower nets again

Fishing is their livelihood – no fish; no pay – doing it all their lives

Toiling all night – best time to see fishermen on Galilee was in the morning as they come in from the night catch (until Israel banned fishing on the lake in April 2010)

Tired, depressed from lack of catch, but they have been listening to the words of life (but we all know that listening to sermon can be tough)

Carpenter tells fisherman how to do his job!

Everyone is watching – public encounter... what will he do?

But Simon recognises authority of the One who is speaking and his only evidence at this point is hearing the Word. This is probably not the first time he has heard or met Jesus

v5 “Master...” – many would end it there, or keep arguing...

“...but at your word...”

His faith isn't just a recognition – it works out in obedience – He humbly obeys

This is true faith (Paul Gal 4 & James)

Humility = right understanding of who God is & who we are in relation to Him

And that is independence / dependence; Creator / Creation

## **2) Jesus speaks & everything changes**

[Narrative – Simon obeys, huge catch! Call others]

The routine, hard days work has been transformed because Jesus spoke.

At the beginning of time, the first recorded words of God are LET THERE BE LIGHT!!!! BAM!!

Romans 4:17 “who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.”

This is where I get Astrophysical...

Light fastest ‘thing’ we know of 300,000 km per sec – 7.5 times round equator

Still takes 8 mins from Sun

Pluto 248 years to orbit this Sun

Over 100 billion stars in MW (my brain has melted)

Light – fastest thing – 100,000 years to cross diameter!

Over 100 billion galaxies in universe (roughly!)

...All that was created at His Word. All those atoms.

And that's just physical creation – Lord over spiritual, fears, emotions, sin, joy, dreams, ambitions

Colossians 1 says about Jesus “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

Ever thought what would happen if He stopped sustaining? Why sun rises every day? Water boils same temp?

BBC Nativity – Deity of Jesus – sustaining creation

We have an incomprehensively massive God

When you hear the promise of God remember this is the God who is speaking:

“You ARE my child”

“You WILL BE fishers of men”

Here, Jesus speaks and everything changes. When He says cast out your nets, regardless of what went before, no matter how long you have been doing the same thing, situation changes – power, fruitfulness!

### **3) As result of the miraculous catch, Simon sees Jesus for who he is and is convicted**

v6-8 – I am a sinful man! I cannot be in your presence! This is a dangerous place for a sinner to be!  
Perhaps imminent danger of drowning

Not just him but the crowd are astonished too. Convicted because of the catch (“For” in v 9)

Note also v8 first time called Peter in Luke – at that moment he is changed man. He has heard the gospel being taught and he has seen a demonstration of the gospel’s power.

The natural man is a sinner because he sets himself up as God and he won’t dethrone himself – and this seems right and ‘natural’ cos we are born this way.

But when we are confronted with the fiery holy presence of Almighty God we are convicted. Mighty powerful light shines in the darkness revealing the true nature of our hearts and we like Peter fall at His feet, seeing our imminent danger.

### **4) This encounter is an intentional parable for how to win the lost**

Intention of Jesus to make this a parable to Peter

Intention of Jesus to show us too

Challenge is this: We can toil all night and see no fruit. Catch no men. But Jesus shows up and instantly there is fruitfulness!

Let’s be honest – Isn’t this really frustrating?! I’m serving Lord! I’m trying my hardest to catch something – give me a break! And we consider this mighty God, teacher, Creator...

**Cliffhanger: God doesn't need us!! He needs no defenders like He is in trouble or something. He is the eternal undefended (Tozer). Even if the whole world were blind, He would still be as glorious and loving and just as He ever was.**

**What then is our role??**

**Firstly praise God for His grace and love shown to us! Oh how awesome He is. All that creative power is exerted in love for us! Not because He has to but because He chooses to – it's all of grace. The gospel says everything about God and nothing about us.**

**But in catching men: What is our role?**

To get the catch, Peter does the same job he was doing couple of hours previous. So what changes is our attitude – same job; but Jesus and the power of the gospel has broken in; everything has changed

We will have hard labour catching men in this town. We should do the work – He has chosen to do it this way from the beginning of time – but in humble obedience and worship, acknowledging that He will build his church – right understanding again. 1 Corinthians 3 – paul planted; apollo's watered; GOD gave the growth

You cannot save people. But God does. He already has.

You cannot win them with your clever arguments - But God does as you engage in conversation and reason with your colleagues.

...with your good deeds, with your love. But the grace and love of Christ shines through as you joyfully serve Him and your neighbours. You win them because you represent Jesus.

But do not be discouraged or ashamed: Lift the name of Jesus! The gospel is POWER!!! He has done the work – it is finished! He has promises over BFC – He has made you fishers of men!

There is POWER in the message we bring to the world. Keep casting the net in faithful obedience. It's the essential combination of spirit and truth (in the same way that we worship God in the truth of who He is and by the power of the spirit welling up in us – God's very presence living inside our hearts)

The truth is – and this truth is the same in any culture or language on the planet – that we are born in sin, rebels against God and are justly under God's wrath. BUT GOD broke into His own creation – which He did not have to do – to pay the price that we owed to Him for our sin – death and hell – in our place, so that we could be his sons, enjoying life in fullness and joy everlasting. That is the gospel of grace to His praise and glory!

That is the good news! The gospel that we must preach. And the truth is accompanied by Spirit power, toughing hearts, raising dead sinners to joyful life, turning sorrow to joy, healing the sick, raising the dead, prophesying and in all things giving glory to God.

Gospel preached this way always gets a response – active faith (Simon) or offense. Blessed is he who is not offended

This combination of gospel teaching (the Word) and demonstration of power – so often see the Luke's other book – Pentecost onwards. Gospel often accompanied by miracles – pray for miraculous

Prayer for application:

- 1) Our faith to be active faith in response to God's word
- 2) Jesus speak!
- 3) People eyes opened, convicted as they see the demonstrations of power
- 4) We want to catch men