

Deeper Riches: Luke Bible Study
Week 5 - Luke 5:1-6:11

Before you begin...

In last week's text we saw John the Baptist usher in a revival among the people of Israel and anoint the Messiah for his earthly ministry. Luke showed us Jesus is the Son of God, a new and better Adam. He came to give sight to those blinded by the darkness of presumption and ignorance, and bring freedom to those held captive to sickness, Satan, and sin.

We saw Jesus rejected in his hometown, but received with amazement and wonder in the town of Capernaum. The people thronged to see his power and authority on display, but did any of them really understand who he was? Is amazement the same thing as faith?

This week, we will see some very strong reactions to Jesus. These reactions fall into two camps: faith, and unbelief. Remember that Jesus' Kingdom is an upside down Kingdom. Jesus is doing a new thing, but not everyone will have eyes to see and ears to hear. What might cause someone to completely miss the Messiah, while others are falling on their face in worship?

Father God, please open the eyes of my heart to see Jesus as I study your Book. Open my ears to hear what you have to say to me through your Word. Use this study to increase my faith, and help me understand what it means to truly follow Jesus, the King.

Day 1 - Luke 5:1-11

1. **Read Luke 5:1-11.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:

- **who** is in the passage
- **what** is happening
- **when** and **where**
- **repeated words** or **ideas**

If you prefer to take some time to write out more observations, try using the Observation Guides at DeeperRiches.com/Luke or write out your observations and thoughts in a journal.

2. What do you find interesting about the setting of this story in **Luke 5:1-3**?

3. How does Jesus' interaction with Simon differ from his interaction with the crowd in **Luke 5:1-4**?

4. What stands out to you about Simon's response to Jesus in **Luke 5:5**?

5. In Luke 4, we saw that Jesus has authority over sickness, and over demons (**Luke 4:38-41**).

- a. What new thing does the miracle in **Luke 5:6-7** demonstrate about Jesus' power and authority?
- b. Why would this have been particularly impactful for a fisherman to see?

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6. Read **Luke 5:8-10**.
 - a. Describe Simon's reaction to seeing the miraculous catch of fish.
 - b. Why do you think he reacted this way?
 - c. How is Simon's reaction to Jesus similar or different from the reactions we saw in Capernaum (**Luke 4:31-44**)?

7. Jesus comforts Simon Peter with the words, "Do not be afraid (**Luke 5:10**)." The angels in Luke 1 and 2 also declared, "Do not be afraid." How is this situation similar and different?

8. Jesus told Simon, "From now on you will be catching people (**Luke 5:10**)." How does this story about fish help you think about evangelism?

- ❖ **Deep Dive:** *How does this story of a miraculous catch of fish relate to the story Luke later tells of Simon Peter in Acts 2:1-41?*

9. What must Simon, James and John have believed about Jesus that would induce them to leave everything and follow him (**Luke 5:11**)?

10. Is there an area in your life where you feel like Jesus is calling you out into the "deep water," something he is calling you to do, or a place he wants to take you that defies conventional wisdom? What fears do you have? What do you need to believe about God in order to say "Master, if you say so, I will..."?

Pray about this right now.

Day 2 - Luke 5:12-26

1. **Read Luke 5:12-26**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or **ideas**

2. When the leprous man sees Jesus in **Luke 5:12**, what does he do and why? Who does this remind you of?

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3. The leper said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." What does this reveal about the leper's faith?
4. What do you find significant about what Jesus says or does in **Luke 5:13-14**?
- ❖ **Deep Dive:** Read about what Jesus commanded this man to do in **Leviticus 14:1-31**. Why do you think Luke mentions this offering? In what way would this be a "testimony" or a "proof"?
5. Why do you think Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray (**Luke 5:15-16**)? Can you relate to this?
6. In **Luke 5:17**, Luke introduces some new characters: The Pharisees and teachers of the Law. What might have drawn these religious leaders to come see Jesus?
7. What do you find interesting about **Luke 5:17-19**?
8. Why do you think Jesus says, "Your sins are forgiven," instead of healing the man in **Luke 5:20**?
9. Luke uses the word "faith" for the first time in **Luke 5:20**.
 - a. How do the men in this story demonstrate faith (**Luke 5:17-20**)?
 - b. What does the reaction of the religious leaders in **Luke 5:21** indicate about how they view Jesus? ("Blasphemy" means speaking false things about God.)
 - c. Based on these examples, write a definition of "faith" in your own words.
10. What aspects of Jesus' power and authority are demonstrated in **Luke 5:22-26**? How do people react to seeing these things?
11. Which example of faith in **Luke 5:12-26** most encourages or challenges you right now, the leper or the friends of the paralytic man? Why?

Take these things to **prayer** right now. **Ask** God for healing, forgiveness, and breakthrough for yourself or others who are suffering today. Use words from this passage to form your prayers.

Day 3 - Luke 5:27-39

1. **Read Luke 5:27-39.** Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - **who** is in the passage
 - **what** is happening
 - **when** and **where**
 - **repeated words** or **ideas**

2. What can you conclude about Levi's social status from the details in **Luke 5:27-30**? How was he viewed by others? What kind of people did he associate with?

3. "Leaving everything behind, he got up and began to follow him." (**Luke 5:28**)
 - a. What might it have cost Levi to follow Jesus? (What was he leaving behind?)

 - b. What have you left behind to follow Jesus?

 - c. How does the promise of **Matthew 19:29** encourage or challenge you personally?

4. The first thing Levi does when he starts to follow Jesus is throw a huge party (**Luke 5:29-30**).
 - a. Does this surprise you? What does throwing a party have to do with following Jesus?

 - b. Think about who is at this party. What might the fishermen have had to say to the tax collectors and "sinners"?

 - c. Think of someone in your neighborhood, city or workplace who has likely been judged or avoided by "religious" people. What could it look like for you to reach out and feast with them for the sake of the gospel? Brainstorm some ideas and pray about any fears that come to your mind.

5. How might Jesus' words in **Luke 5:31-32** have challenged how his listeners thought about God?

6. What advantage do "sinners" have over religious people when it comes to faith in Jesus?

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7. In **Luke 5:33**, the Pharisees complain about Jesus' disciples feasting instead of fasting like other religious disciples.
- Why do you think the Pharisees were so bothered by this?
 - In your own words, explain why Jesus' disciples were feasting instead of fasting (**Luke 5:34-35**).
8. What point do you think Jesus is trying to make with his parable in **Luke 5:36-38**?
9. How has this passage challenged your thoughts about what it means to follow Jesus? What are the implications of this for your life or for your local church?

Stop and **pray** about what God has shown you.

Day 4 - Luke 6:1-11

- Read Luke 6:1-11**. Underline or mark some things that stand out to you. **Read it again** and notice:
 - who** is in the passage
 - what** is happening
 - when** and **where**
 - repeated words** or **ideas**
- When God gave the Law to Moses, he commanded the Israelites not to do work of any kind on the seventh day of the week, called "the Sabbath" (**Exodus 20:8-11**). What do you think is the purpose of this commandment?
- Over time, religious leaders constructed hundreds of rules and restrictions telling people what they could not do on the Sabbath. One thing that was forbidden by these Sabbath rules was reaping and threshing, which is the "law" the disciples were accused of breaking in **Luke 6:1-2**. Is this a reasonable accusation? Why or why not?
- What do you find significant about Jesus' response to the Pharisees in **Luke 6:3-5**?

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5. This is the second time Jesus has referred to himself as “the Son of Man.”
 - a. Read **Daniel 7:13-14**. List all the descriptions of Jesus given in this prophecy.

 - b. Why can Jesus say, “the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath?”

 - c. Why would it have angered the Pharisees to hear Jesus refer to himself as “the Son of Man”?

6. In **Luke 6:6-11**, how are the Pharisees the ones who are actually profaning the Sabbath?

7. How does Jesus’ view of the Sabbath seem to differ from the Pharisees’ view of the Sabbath? (Consider **Mark 2:27**.)

8. Imagine this story told from the perspective of the man with the shriveled hand. What might he have been thinking or feeling throughout **Luke 6:6-10**?

9. Why are the Pharisees so opposed to Jesus at this point (**Luke 6:11**)? What is so threatening about him?

10. What have you seen about Jesus in this passage or in Daniel 7:13-14 that you would like to take to heart?

Pray a prayer of praise based on what God has shown you.

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Day 5 - Pulling it all together

1. What is one thing you think Luke really wants us to understand from these stories of faith and Pharisees? **If you have time, reread all of Luke 5:1-6:11 before answering.**

2. Luke often places people or events side by side for us to compare and contrast. Who or what might he be comparing in this section? What is one thing you think he wants us to see through this comparison?

3. Compare the ways people addressed Jesus in chapters 4, 5 and 6. What does the name they used for Jesus indicate about how they viewed him?

	How they address Jesus...	How they view Jesus...
The Nazarenes (Luke 4:22)		
The devil and the demons (Luke 4:3,34,41)		
Simon Peter and the leper (Luke 5:5,8,12)		
The religious leaders (Luke 5:33)		
Jesus, himself (Luke 5:24, 6:5)		

4. What do these stories reveal about the Kingdom of God? Who is the Kingdom for? What is the King like?

5. How do these stories help you think about what it means to have faith or what it means to follow Jesus?

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6. What is your most important personal take-away from this chapter? (Was there a **key verse**, a **special insight**, an **example** to follow, a new **way to pray**, something that **challenged** or **convicted** you, etc...)

In what area of your life does this seem to matter most, and how?

*One of the best ways to **apply** the Word of God to your own life is to really **pray** about what you have seen in the passage. You can use words from the passage as part of your prayers.*

PRAISE. Thank and praise God for who he is and what he has done. Be specific.

REPENT. Confess your sin to God and turn from it. Agree with God about the things that need to change. Be specific.

ASK. What will you ask God to do based on what he has shown you? Be specific.

YIELD. What will you surrender to God? How can you trust and obey Him in response to what he has shown you? Be specific.

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Small Group Discussion Guide:

1. What stood out to you about Simon's interactions with Jesus in **Luke 5:1-11**? How was this story different from Jesus' interactions in Capernaum?
2. Jesus told Simon, "From now on you will be catching people." How does the story about the miraculous catch of fish help you think about evangelism?
3. Which example of faith in **Luke 5:12-26** most encourages or challenges you right now, the leper or the friends of the paralytic man? Why?
4. What did the Jewish religious leaders think about Jesus? What was the root of their problem? How does the parable in **Luke 5:36-39** illustrate what is happening?
5. Why were Jesus' words and actions on the Sabbath particularly upsetting to the Pharisees? Why did Jesus call himself "the Son of Man" and "Lord of the Sabbath?"
6. Luke often places people or events side by side for us to compare and contrast. Who or what might he be comparing in this section? What is one thing you think he wants us to see through this comparison?
7. Based on the examples in these stories, what does it really mean to follow Jesus? What are the implications of this for your life or for your local church?
8. Who had faith in these stories and what did it look like? How would you define "faith?" How does faith differ from being religious? How does faith differ from being astonished or amazed?

What is your big take-away from this passage or this discussion? Is there anything you need to confess or yield to God in response to this Truth? What will you praise God for? What will you ask God to do?