

The Cost of Discipleship
Luke 4:37-5:11
Berean Baptist Church
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INTRODUCTION

Luke 4:37 “And the fame of him went out into every place of the country round about.”

By these miracles, Jesus adds authority to His teaching and shows Himself to be the Great Physician – Jesus is the king who heals. Although He knows the evil hearts of these people, yet he loves them enough to touch them and save them.

In this passage we see the power of Jesus' word. And we learn what it means to follow Jesus.

Follow Jesus!

Repent of your sins and follow Jesus because is able to save all who trust in Him as savior and Lord!

And once you have trusted Jesus, follow Him as a disciple!

Luke 4:38-39 Jesus Heals with His Word

Vs 38 Jesus teaches in the synagogue on that Sabbath **“and entered into Simon's house.”** Notice that Luke does not introduce Simon Peter. This is because Luke writes to a gentile Christian (Theophilus) who lived roughly at the same time as Peter – Simon Peter was naturally very well known to the first Christians.

Vs 38 “great fever” Luke gives a more technical description; she was running a high fever.

Vs 38 “And Simon's wife's mother” This is Peter's mother in law. Notice that Jesus cares for, and heals, both men and women.

Notice, also that Peter was married. In fact, many of the apostles were married (1 Cor 9:5), but not all (1 Cor 7:8). Neither marriage nor singleness are requirements for gospel ministry; both have advantages.

Vs 39 Jesus Rebukes the Fever. Jesus' way of healing her is unusual. He stands over the woman and tells the disease to set her free.

Jesus does not often rebuke illnesses. It may be that the fever was caused by a demon. But here and in this entire section, we are learning something about Jesus' word.

Jesus' word has the power to heal. And this physical healing is a picture of healing of the soul that is salvation.

Vs 39 “and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them.” As soon as Jesus releases this woman from her bonds she gets up and serves. This is one of the great themes of the Bible :we are saved to serve.

Years later, when God inspired Peter to write his first epistle, maybe he was thinking of this moment when he told his readers to live as "As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God (1 Pet 2:16)."

Follow Jesus' word because He speaks health to the sick!

Luke 4:40-44 Jesus Delivers with His Word

Vs 40 “Now when the sun was setting” Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law on the Sabbath after Synagogue. Word got around and many people wanted to have sick healed. But the Sabbath regulations forbade people from carrying burdens, even carrying an ill relative to a doctor was not kosher on the sabbath.

But now that the Sabbath day is ending, people are carrying their sick to Jesus.

Vs 40 Jesus laid hands on each one Although He knows the hearts of these people, yet he loves them enough to touch them and heal them.

Follow Jesus' word because He is full of compassion!

Vs 41 drives out the devils. As we've seen before, Jesus drives out the fallen angels.

There seems to have been much demonic activity in the Holy Land during Jesus' time. Likely, Satan and his rebel spirits understood that something very important to God's plan was going to happen in Israel in the 1st century. Our first adversary did not understand exactly what was going to happen, but he thought it was a good idea to flood the area with his soldiers trying to be ready.

He wasn't ready. The demons get beaten at every turn by Jesus.

Vs 41 “ And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.”

The demons might be confessing Jesus because they have no power to do otherwise. But their words are still dangerous.

If the demons could whip the Hebrews into a messianic fever by proclaiming that “Jesus is the Messiah (Christ)”, then they might start a revolt against the Romans. If the Romans destroyed Jerusalem before Jesus' death than the Atonement as know it would have been impossible.

The demons probably did not understand what Jesus was going to do. But they knew that their "best" option for doing evil would be to hijack the message and steer it to their goals.

This still happens today. The Evil One smuggles lies and compromises into churches by wrapping it in a Christian sounding message.

Pay no attention to the Devil and his agents even if they appear to be telling the truth!

Vs 42-43 “must preach the kingdom of God” Wherever Jesus rules, there is the Kingdom of God. The presence of the King, casting out demons, rebuking diseases, feeding His people, etc proved that the Kingdom of God imminent.

“But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you (Luke 11:20.” And, “The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it (Luke 16:16).”

But there is also an aspect of future hope to the Kingdom of God. “When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in

earth (Luke 11:2).”

“And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened (Luke 13:20-21).”

The Kingdom of God is being manifest in biblical churches today, and when the King returns, the Kingdom will be manifest all over the world.

Follow Jesus' word because by His word Jesus delivers from evil and declares the Kingdom of God!

Luke 5:1-11 Jesus Calls Dead Sinners to a New Life with His Word

Vs 1 Jesus was speaking “**the word of God.**” In Luke, preaching the good news of the Kingdom is sharing the Word of God. In another sense, they were hearing the word of God because Jesus is the word of God in human form (John Ch 1). He taught with authority and power on the shores of Gennesaret, which is Galilee.

Vs 2-3 Jesus sits down on a ship and teaches the people on the shore. The slope of the shore around the low surface of the lake makes a natural amphitheater – a perfect area to preach a message.

We've found fishing boats buried in the lake mud of Galilee that date to this time. The boat that has been discovered was about 25 feet long, it had sails and oars, and would sail with a crew of five. It could hold and able to hold about 10 passengers or 2,000 pounds of cargo.

Vs 4 “**Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon**” Jesus frequently finishes His sermons by performing a miracle to show His authority as the Teacher. No one knew, but He would do just this..

Vs 5 Peter calls Jesus “**master.**” This is a sign of extreme respect – much deeper respect than the more common “teacher.”

Vs 5 “**Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing:**” Peter and his friends had tried and failed all night to catch fish – by his own power he could do nothing. Now it was a strange time to cast nets.

And they had just been washing the nets!

If they throw them into the sea again, all that work will be undone and the washing will have to start from scratch.

Vs 5 “**nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.**” Despite some suspicion and maybe a little grumbling, Simon Peter decides that he will take Jesus at his word and cast the net. Why would he do this?

By Jesus' word the demons have been put to flight, by Jesus' word Peter's mother in law was saved, and by Jesus, the Word of God has been taught. Peter must have known that there is something to Jesus' word, even if he did not understand what. And Peter did not yet know it, but Jesus would speak again.

Vs 6-8 “**When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees,**” Perhaps Peter is torn by a knowledge that in Jesus is everything good and lovely that could ever be, and the dreadful weight of his own sin that has separated him from this goodness. Peter can't stand the shame of God's presence, he can't stand the thought of being separated from Him.

And Peter is not alone. The prophets Isaiah (6:5), Ezekiel (1:1-2:2), and Moses (Exd 3:6) have similar experiences. And Israel knew this fear at Sinai.

But what is most remarkable about Peter's experience is the plain humanity of the presence of God. Isaiah saw the Almighty high upon a throne in a temple full of smoke and was shaken by the Voice. Moses and Israel saw the Presence as holy fire, light, smoke, and thundering death. The Bible tells us that afterward, light poured out of Moses as though he became a living lantern.

But here, on the shore of Galilee, Peter knows the Presence, the adoration, and the fear, and it's "only" the Son of Man standing before him. It may be all the more unnerving because the full presence of God is most definitely in the form of a man.

“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb 1:1-3).”

Vs 8-9 “for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” Like, the demons, Peter has an inkling of Jesus' identity, and a burning dread of the judgment that he deserves.

Vs 10 “Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.”

This is the fourth time in Luke that one from heaven tells humans to "fear not." Zacharias in the temple, Mary in Galilee, and the shepherds in Bethlehem were all strengthened by angels: "fear not." And now God Himself speaks.

The voice that sent the Devil fleeing, and drove demons and diseases out the afflicted, that taught the Word of God with supernatural power, now turns to Peter, comforts him, and gives Him a new life

“from henceforth thou shalt catch men.”

“catch” The word here used is used exclusively for capturing something alive. Jesus calls Peter to go from capturing fish that might be killed and eaten, to “capturing” people that they might be made alive in God.

Peter's mother-in-law was saved from her fever, arose, and served. And now, Peter has been saved from his fearful sins, and is called to serve.

Vs 11 “And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”

When Peter was saved from his sins, he became a disciple – a follower and student – of Jesus. Peter did a very hard thing (**they forsook all**) and did it like it was the most natural thing in the world.

CONCLUSION

If you are not yet following Jesus, see how Jesus is the hero driving this story; His word changes everything. He is worthy.

Simon's mother is sick in bed and with a word Jesus saves her that she may serve others.

The demons haunt many people, but Jesus drives them out. And even when they would speak truth to twist it to their own ends, He silences them with a word.

So, the people that Jesus helps want Him to stay with them, but He speaks of a greater purpose.

He goes to meet Peter, who has his own ideas about how fishing works. But at Jesus' word, Peter gives it a try and brings in a huge catch of fish.

Peter is distraught over his own sense of sin and tells Jesus to leave him alone to his darkness, but with a word, Jesus gives Peter a new lease on life.

The dynamic and vital power of Jesus' word is not surprising when we understand the power of the Word of God. "The worlds were framed by the word of God (Heb 11:3)." Physical reality as we know it was formed and holds together by the word of God.

Follow Jesus as Lord and Savior because He has the power to save!

If you are following Jesus, are you following a disciple?

“And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”

Follow Jesus!