

**Anglican Church Noosa**  
**Luke 5:1-11 The Contentious Jesus | Calling**  
**Peregian 16-2-2025**  
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I'm sure you've all been in a social setting where you've been introduced to a new person, and you make small talk getting to know one another. You may talk about the social occasion you are attending and why each of you are there, or how you know the host. But not too long into the conversation there is the inevitable question, "What do you do?"

So people talk about their job, career, the company they work for.

If Simon Peter was at a party and someone asked him, "What do you do?" If it happened in Luke Chs 1 to 4 he would have simply answered,

"I'm a fisherman."

From Luke Ch 5 onwards

I think he would have answered,

"I'm a follower of Jesus".

As we go through this passage this morning I want you to think about how do you primarily identify yourself, -

-By the job you do.

-Or as a follower of Jesus.

So let's look at this remarkable story about how Peter became a follower of Jesus. We are in Luke Chapter 5 v's 1-11. It would be very helpful to have the text open in front of you if you have your Bible with you. And I do encourage you to bring your Bible to the service.

This is the third week in our series "Contentious Jesus" looking at Luke Chapters 4 and 5.

**Week 1**, I hope you might remember how Jesus was the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy.

Jesus read Isaiah 61 in the synagogue in Nazareth. The passage talks about God's servant proclaiming good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, setting the oppressed free. It is actually a prophecy about the Messiah, so when he then said, "*Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*" he was claiming to be the Messiah.

Week 2 we find him acting as the Messiah in Capernaum - I hope you remember last week's stories of Jesus teaching in the synagogue, casting out demons, and healing people who were sick with all kinds of diseases. Especially, he healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law. He exercises his ministry with great authority and the people are amazed.

Well guess what? The people are going to be amazed again in our story this week. They're going to see Jesus authority over nature, over the fish of the sea; and they're going to see more evidence Jesus identity, as it was revealed last week - the Holy One of God, the Son of God and Messiah.

So let's get into the story!

V1 Jesus is beside the lake of Gennesaret, that is just another name for the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus is probably back in Capernaum because that is where Peter lived and would have had his fishing business.

The people are crowding around Jesus because they want to hear more of his marvellous teaching. One gets the impression it is a large crowd because Jesus gets into Simon Peter's boat and asks him to put out a little from the shore, presumably to give himself a little space between him and the crowd.

We are told he taught the people from the boat. What did he teach that day? We're not told. But read the rest of Luke's gospel and you'll find just some of his most incredible teaching and you'll understand why he drew a great crowd.

When he is finished teaching he says to Simon, *"Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*

A simple instruction, however think about the irony,

-A carpenter telling a fisherman how to fish.

-An itinerant preacher telling a fisherman how to fish.

It would be interesting to know the tone of Simon Peter's voice in the response he makes to Jesus, *"Master, we worked hard all night and haven't caught anything."* Did he say this with some sense of frustration - Like Jesus do you really know what you're talking about? Or was it just matter of fact?

Regardless, Peter put out into the deep and let down the nets.

Would Peter have followed these instructions from any passerby?

I doubt it.

Why do it when Jesus asked him?

Well because Jesus had authority.

And Peter already had a number of experiences with Jesus where he had witnessed that authority.

-He had seen Jesus heal his mother-in-law in his own house.

-He had seen Jesus cast out demons and heal the sick.

-He heard Jesus wonderful teaching, previously back in v32 where we're told specifically his teaching had authority. He had heard more of this authoritative teaching that morning as Jesus taught from his boat.

So Peter address's Jesus as Master,

a sign of respect. Peter follows Jesus command because it is him giving it, *"Because you say so, I will let down the nets."* v5 is the reason he does it.

This all simply reinforces Jesus incredible authority.

Well we know the outcome. They caught so many fish their nets began to break. They caught so many fish they needed more hands on deck to cope with them all. Not only Simon Peter's boat but James and John's boat as well filled to the brim with fish!

So full they were beginning to sink.

How astonishing it must have been. Remember there's a crowd on the beach who've just been listening to Jesus' teaching.

I bet they were amazed yet again.

Peter, James and John were astonished (look at v9). When was the last time they had a catch like this?

Quite likely there'd never had a catch like this!

We are actually told, quite specifically Simon Peter's response, which is very interesting.

When you think about it Peter's response could have been very different. His eyes could have lit up as he thought about the current price for fish at the markets and what this nice little haul might bring in.

But from what we read here that seems the furthest thing from his mind.

His mind is focused on the one who produced this miracle, and his relationship to that one. *"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"*

Notice he addresses Jesus as Lord.

This is stronger than just Master which he used previously in v5.

It is the Greek word Kurios.

In later New Testament writings it carries all the connotations of divinity

but here for Peter he probably hasn't quite got to that point yet.

For Peter it is probably a title that simply recognises Jesus incredible authority.

He has seen Jesus do amazing things, and now a miracle in an area in which he thought he had expertise. You could say the penny dropped. But perhaps more appropriately it was more like a giant fish smacking him over the head.

In the presence of Jesus he recognises that he is a sinful man. This is not just about bringing to mind a few misdemeanours of his youth or even something just did yesterday.

It is about becoming achingly aware of what he is like by nature.

- He is the blind one,
- He is spiritually poor,
- He is the prisoner.
- He is the person in Isaiah 61 needing saving.

This is what happens when we see the truth about God and therefore the truth about ourselves.

Most people only compare themselves to other people, and if you do that you can scrub up pretty well. But if you compare yourself with Jesus you get a very different picture.

I have a non-Christian friend I was talking to over new year.

He had all these reasons why he thought God was a moral failure. All sorts of things in our world that are unfair, unjust and hard to fathom. If he ruled the world things would be a lot better.

I think he was comparing himself to other people and feeling morally justified. I think if he compared himself to Jesus he might come to see himself in a different light.

I know when I stopped comparing myself to other people and started comparing myself with Jesus, I came to the same conclusion as Simon Peter, *"I am a sinful man."* That was in my late teens and it totally turned my life around. Only then could I come humbly before God and accept Jesus as my Saviour.

Have you come to that conviction? People can come to church for many reasons. I attended church for many years thinking God should be impressed with how conscientious I was.

But then I started looking into Jesus seriously. And I came to the same conclusion as Peter, *"I am a sinful man."* And it's only with that conviction that you can then accept Jesus as your Saviour and truly know God and follow Jesus.

Last week you might recall that it was through the demons, surprisingly, that Jesus' identity was being revealed.

He was correctly identified as the Holy One of God, the Son of God, Messiah.

We can't be sure how much of Jesus' identity Peter understood at this stage, but this miraculous catch of fish in some way revealed Jesus' holiness, that he was indeed the Holy One of God;

and therefore caused Peter to have a deep conviction of his sin.

*"Go away from me Lord; for I am a sinful man."*

What is Jesus response to Simon Peter's realisation that he is a sinner.

*"Don't be afraid"*

What comforting words.

What glorious words.

Why is Peter to 'not be afraid?'

Not because sin doesn't matter.

But because Jesus can forgive sin.

Let me give you a little peek into the next two weeks in Luke. Next week will read that dramatic story of the friends of a paralysed man letting him

**down through the roof** in order to get him to Jesus. And what does Jesus say to this man, *"You are healed?"* No!

He says, *"Your sins are forgiven."*v20

Sin matters but Jesus forgives.

Then the following week we will read the story of **Jesus calling Levi** the

tax collector. At the end of that story Jesus says it is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. v31,32

The self-righteous can't hear the call of God;

but repentant sinners can.

So Peter is ready to hear the call. And what a call! Jesus says, *"From now on you'll fish for people."*

And I think **the giant catch of fish**

is a metaphor for the success of the Christian mission.

It will begin at Pentecost where Peter's sermon sees 3,000 people converted and becoming followers of Jesus. Peter will indeed from now on be catching people.

So what is the **application** for us of this wonderful story about Peter.

You could argue that this story is

**unique to Peter**. It is about Peter being called to be one of the 12 Apostles,

undergoing 3 years of intensive training with Jesus and

then being sent out to do the wonderful ministry we see him doing in the Acts of the Apostles.

However, I believe that Dr Luke might be very disappointed if you didn't see further than that.

At the end of his Gospel he gives us what is often referred to as the Great Commission.

Luke 24:46-48 Jesus is saying that the because of his death and resurrection, "repentance for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations. You are witnesses of these things." Here is a call at the end of his Gospel to be witnesses.

In Luke 10:2, where Jesus sends out the 72 in mission he says, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into his harvest field."*

Jesus wants more workers,  
not just Peter.

When you think about it, if Jesus has saved you, and if you've caught even a glimpse of the majesty the gospel that's saved you, wouldn't you want other people to experience his salvation as well.

Everyone who is a follower of Jesus is called to be part of his mission to the world. I think the record of what Jesus said to Peter, is recorded for the benefit of all future followers of Jesus as well. *"Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people."*

So I want to come back to that question I posed at the beginning.

"What is your job?" "What do you do?"

Do you see your primary job,  
the primary thing you do  
as being a follower of Jesus and fishing for people? And then whatever else you do as the secondary job,  
a secondary role?

So you are a follower of Jesus  
and you are also a teacher.

You are a follower of Jesus, Oh and also an engineer, or a nurse, or a business person.

You are a follower of Jesus and also a mother, a father. You're a follower of Jesus and also a grandparent.

So our primary identity is  
who we are in Christ and  
our primary job to follow Christ.

You see that not just in this morning's passage but throughout the whole  
New Testament.

Did you note the Apostle Paul's testimony writing to the Philippians. Paul's identity before he met Christ was that he was a Hebrew of Hebrews,  
of the tribe of Benjamin,  
his job was that of a Pharisee.

But after meeting Christ he goes on to say, *"Whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ."*

*I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*

Our first job is to be a follower of Christ. Our second job is whatever else calls you to do in life.

Now I'm not necessarily suggesting that if you're at a party and someone asks you what's your job that you say right up front, "I'm a follower of Jesus."

If you have a gift for evangelism you could probably could say that, and get away with it, and start up a very interesting conversation.

But most of us are not gifted evangelists.

So I would suggest we simply answer in a straightforward way.

What is important is that we are conscious of answering as a follower of Jesus, and looking for natural ways we can bring him into the conversation.

One of the best ways of doing that is simply being open about your involvement in the church. For example, if you're at work on Monday morning or just with a friend and the topic comes up what did you do on the weekend? Tell people you went to church; you might tell them you heard a great sermon! and if it wasn't; tell them how good the music was.

Look to **invite people** to church events. We have a Ladies Lunch coming up on the 15th of March. Ladies why don't you invite a friend to come with you, and if you can afford it, shout them lunch.

Lynda is the speaker at the lunch and she will be speaking in a way that makes people without faith very included and welcome. And your friend will hear about Jesus.

A little later in the year we have a Men's Breakfast planned on the 17th May. The guest speaker will be Jono Bailey who's a Christian surfer. Jono is very used to speaking to non-Christian audiences and will share a message about faith in Christ mixed with plenty of good surfing stories. I encourage you to be praying now about who you could invite.

This year has been designated Hope 25. It's about reaching out and inviting people to explore Jesus and find hope. Simply inviting someone to church on a Sunday morning is a great thing. I believe there are many people out there who are looking for a way in, but just tentative about taking that step. We have produced these business card size invitations you can use to invite someone. -Message - Service times

One of the very encouraging things about this passage from Dr Luke, is that God calls ordinary people. Simon Peter, James and John, -were not theologically trained, -were not particularly influential in their community;

They were just ordinary fishermen, but God called them and God equipped them. On top of that Peter was a sinner, a self confessed sinner; but awareness of his sin didn't disqualify him, in fact it was the very prerequisite for following Christ and serving him.

God is calling people who know their own unworthiness and their inadequacy. These are the people God can reshape as disciples of Jesus.

So what a remarkable story we have this morning. We sometimes talk about a bad day at the office.

For Peter it was a bad night on the lake!

Yet Jesus, the holy one of God,  
turns it around with a huge catch.

Peter is overwhelmed by

- the authority of Jesus,
- the holiness of Jesus.

Peter confesses he is a sinful man.

So Jesus said to him that day,  
just as I believe he also says to us,

*“Don't be afraid;  
from now on you will fish for people.”*