

## HPC – Trinity Bible Class - October 30, 2022

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### THE TWELVE APOSTLES CHOSEN – Accompanying Miracles and teachings - Luke Chapters Five and Six.

I. The Miraculous Draught of Fishes – The Initial Meeting of Jesus. – There were two phases to the disciples call. The first phase was “a call to conversation”. This illustrates how every disciple is first called to salvation. We must recognize Jesus as the true Lamb of God and Lord of all and embrace Him by faith. Phase one of the two phases to the calling was initiated when John the Baptist upon seeing Jesus exclaimed, “**Behold the Lamb of God**”. Andrew heard John’s remark and followed Jesus. After meeting Jesus, Andrew found Simon (Peter) and brought him to meet Jesus. Jesus then found Philip and Philip brought Nathaniel to Jesus. After meeting Jesus they went back to their employments while Jesus was being tempted and tested by the Devil and emerging triumphant He commenced His teaching ministry.

Jesus continued His teaching ministry in Galilee, right on the shore of the lake Gennesaret. The Lord **sat down** in Peter’s boat and used it as a pulpit from which to teach the gathered multitude. A lesson for us is if we yield ourselves, our property and possessions to Jesus, it is wonderful how he uses it all and rewards us also. When He finished teaching He directed Peter to launch out into the deep to catch fish- after Peter and the others had toiled **all night** without success. A lesson is that service carried out by our

own wisdom and strength is futile. The secret of success in Christian work is to be guided by Jesus and the Spirit of God. In short, “Christ- directed service not self-directed service.

2. Though an experienced fisherman Peter obeyed the word of the Lord... **“at your word I will let down the net”**. This shows the value of humility, of teachability and of implicit obedience.

3. It was in the deep water that the nets “were filled to the breaking point”. Sometimes we have to move out of the shallow water along the shore and get out into the deep even if its’ against known experience. Experienced fishermen fished at night when the fish came into shallow waters. During the day the fish swam out to the deep waters where it was much more difficult to catch them with nets. Peter knew all this yet obeyed the Lord even though His command was contrary to normal practice.

4. Peter’s nets began to break and his boat began to sink due to the volume of fish. Peter called James and John to come out and help. Rapidly their nets were breaking and their ship was sinking. Christ directed service can produce problems at times, but what delightful problems they are.

5. This vision of Glory on the Lord Jesus produced in Peter a great sense of his own unworthiness. It was so with Isaiah (6:5); it is so with all who see the King in all His Glory. With this in mind Peter immediately knew who Jesus was. Peter called Him Lord (5:8a). Peter’s reaction was not a command for Jesus to go away but an expression of his own unworthiness (5:8b). Far from disqualifying Peter, his recognition is precisely what made him an ideal candidate to be a disciple. Jesus reassured Peter and gave him a new

assignment (5:10b), as He did with Andrew, James and John (5:10a). They left everything and followed Jesus (5:11). The point here is starkly simple: A disciple is one who sets everything aside (literally if necessary) and follows Jesus. In addition, if Jesus could make Peter successful 'at something Peter knew was impossible' (fishing in the deep during the daytime), then there was implicit encouragement for Peter that Jesus could also make him successful at catching men (v.10).

6. Phase two occurred while Peter was engaged in his ordinary employment. While we are waiting for guidance, do whatever your hand finds to do. Do it with all your might as heartily unto the Lord. God will answer prayer for guidance.

7. Christ called Peter from catching fish to catching men, or more literally "taking men alive". What an incomparable privilege of seeing even one soul won for Christ and for eternity.

8. Peter, Andrew, James and John pulled their boats up on the beach and forsook all on the best business day of their lives. How very much hung on their decision. We would probably never have heard of them if they had chosen to stay with their boats.

## II. JESUS HEALS THE LEPER (5:12-16) (Mt 8:2)

5:12 – Dr. Luke makes special mention of the fact that the man was full of leprosy. It was an advanced case and quite hopeless, humanly speaking. The faith of the leper was remarkable:

1. He said, **“YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN”**. He could NOT have said that to any other man in the world, yet he had absolute confidence in the power of the Lord Jesus.
2. When he said, **“IF YOU ARE WILLING”** he was not expressing doubt as to Christ’s willingness, rather he was coming as a supplicant, with no inherent right to be healed, but casting himself on the mercy and grace of the Lord. Jesus response confirms the lepers’ faith in Him:
  - a. Jesus touched him. An incredible act of compassion on the man. In all likelihood the man had not been touched by a human hand in years.
  - b. Jesus spoke to him, **“I AM WILLING”** (5:13b).
3. Jesus healed him- immediately the leprosy left him.

5:13 – To touch a leper was dangerous medically, defiling religiously and degrading socially, but the Savior contracted no defilement. Instead there surged into the body of the leper a cascade of healing and health. It was not a gradual cure for immediately the leprosy left him. Think of what it must have meant to that hopeless, helpless leper to be made completely whole in a moment of time.

5:14 – Jesus charged him to tell no one of the cure. Jesus did not want to attract a crowd of curiosity seekers, or stir up a popular movement to make Him King. Instead the Lord commanded the leper to go...to the priest and present the offering prescribed by Moses (Lev. 14:4). Every detail of the offering spoke of Christ. It was the function of the priest to examine the leper and determine

if he had actually been healed. The examination occurred outside the camp. The priest could not heal and all he could do was pronounce the man healed. In all likelihood the priest had never seen a man healed of the leprosy before. He certainly didn't see a case of one full of leprosy healed. The sight was unique and it should have made him realize the Messiah had at last appeared. It also should have been a testimony to all the priests, but their hearts were blinded by unbelief. The verse says it was, "for a Testimony unto them". Yet, amongst the people the news spread like wildfire.

### III. THE PARALYTIC HEALED (Lk 5:17-26)

1. The Authority of Christ – The second special example of Jesus' power over disease – the healing of the paralytic. The emphasis as in Matthew (9:6,8), is on Authority. The paralytic needed physical healing, but the greater need was Spiritual. The reaction of the Pharisees is understandable in light of O.T. texts however it is flawed. The O.T. ascribes the authority Jesus manifests only to God (Isa 43:25; 44:22). Dr. Luke informs us that as Jesus was teaching He also had the power and authority to perform healing (5:17c). This note is simply to remind the reader that healing power was the mark of His "Messianic Credentials" (cf., Isa 61:1; Lk 4:18).
2. The opposition of the religious authorities- Pharisees. As news of Jesus' ministry spread the Pharisees and teachers of the Law became increasingly hostile.

Lk 5:17 is Luke's first mention of Pharisees and 5:21 is the first use of the word "scribes". Here we see them assembling in Galilee with the purpose of finding some accusation against Him. When Jesus saw the **faith** of the four men and the paralytic that they lowered through the roof He said, "**man your sins are forgiven you**". The statement aroused the Pharisees and the scribes. They knew no one but God could forgive sins. Unwilling to admit that Jesus was God, they raised the cry of Blasphemy. Blasphemy means, "to speak against someone", "to harm one's reputation". In unbelief they thought when a person claimed to have Divine prerogatives, it diminished God's exalted place by suggesting that a mere human could share His attributes and privileges.

3. Jesus Silences the Accusations by Irrefutable Evidence  
The Lord proceeded to prove that He had actually forgiven the man's sins. First, He asked them if it were easier to say, "Your Sins are Forgiven You", or to say, "Rise Up and Walk". In one sense it is just as easy to say one as the other, but it is another thing to do either, since both are humanly impossible. The point is that it is 'easier to say, "**Your sins are forgiven you**", because there is no way of telling if it happened. If you say, "**Rise up and walk**" then it is easy to see if the patient has been healed. The Pharisees could not see that the man's sins had been forgiven, so, they would not believe. Therefore, Jesus performed a miracle which they could see to prove to them that He had truly forgiven the man's sins.

5:14 – “**But that you may know that the son of man has power on earth to forgive sins**” – He gave the paralytic power to walk.

**THE SON OF MAN** emphasizes the Lord’s perfect humanity. In one sense we are all sons of man, but this title sets Jesus off from every other man who ever lived. One who is morally perfect, One who would suffer, bleed and die, and One to whom universal headship has been given.

5:25 – In obedience to His word the paralyzed man got up, carried his sleeping pad, and went home Glorifying God.

5:26 – The crowd was literally amazed, and they Glorified God acknowledging that they had seen incredible things that day, namely the pronouncing of forgiveness and the miracle to prove it.

#### IV. The Calling of Levi/Matthew

5:27a – The calling of Levi followed the same pattern as the earlier callings. Levi was identified as a Tax Collector at work. Nevertheless Jesus called him to “**Follow me**” and he did just that (5:28). His response was immediate and complete.

Matthew’s Great Feast for The Lord - It is suggested by some that Matthew had three purposes in arranging this feast: 1. He wanted to honor the Lord Jesus

2. To witness publically to his new allegiance
3. He wanted to introduce his friends to Jesus

The Pharisees strongly objected to the idea of point #3. These religious authorities considered themselves righteous and they had no need for a savior. Actually the Pharisees were NOT righteous. They needed to be saved as much as the tax collectors but were unwilling to confess and acknowledge their guilt. Therefore they criticized the Lord for going to people who were seriously ill. First, the question of **FASTING** arose. The Lord explained why would they fast when HE was with them.

Second, they criticized the fact that the disciples were eating plucked grain on the Sabbath. Later the Lord revealed to them that He was "**Lord of the Sabbath**".

The Lord followed this by giving three parables which illustrated that the 'new dispensation had begun and there was no mixing of the NEW with the OLD.

1. **The New Patch** – Jesus said, taking a patch out of a new garment and putting it an old garment will destroy the new garment and will destroy the old garment. The new (Grace/Christianity) is incompatible with the old (Law/Judaism) .
2. **The New Wine** – Jesus said, you cannot put new wine (Christianity) into the old wineskins (Judaism).
3. **The Old Way** – This parable illustrates that many people prefer the old and familiar. J. N. Darby says, "A man accustomed to forms and human relations, father's religion, etc., never likes the new principle and power of the Kingdom.

V. Healing **the Man with the withered hand**- Healed on the Sabbath.

The Lord asked the Pharisees, "Was it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or evil? Either answer would have been wrong so the Pharisees were silenced. With the man standing in the midst of the company the Lord commanded the man to stretch forth his hand and it was restored to normal. The Pharisees and Scribes were **"filled with rage/madness"**.

VI. Our Savior Jesus Christ was a **man of prayer** (5:16; 6:12).

1. Great multitudes came to the Lord for healing and Jesus often withdrew Himself into the wilderness or mountains for a time of prayer. It is fitting that this gospel, which presents Him as The Son of Man should have more to say about His prayers life than any other.
2. Some scriptural instruction on prayer is as follows:
  - Eph. 6:18 - Pray Always
  - 1 Thess. 5:17 - Pray without ceasing
  - 1 Tim 2:18 - that men would pray everywhere
  - James 5:13 - I any afflicted? Let him pray
  - James 5:16 - Pray for one another
  - Luke 11:1 - The Apostles asked, Lord teach us to pray
  - Luke 6:12 - He went into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer
  - 1 John 2:6 - He that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk even as He walked.

## VII. THE SELECTION TO THE TWELVE APOSTLES

(Lk6:12-16)

1. After praying all night Jesus called the disciples together and from their number selected twelve who He called Apostles. Disciples in Greek, “mathetes” means “learners”, “students”. That is what they were during the years they spent under the personal tutelage of the Lord. He had multiple disciples. The number twelve corresponds to the number of the tribes of Israel. It is the number of “government” and “governance”.

MacArthur writes, “The role of an Apostle (including the special office to which the Apostle Paul was called) involved a position of leadership and exclusive teaching authority in the early church. The N.T. scriptures were all written by the Apostles or their close associates. Before the N.T. was written the Apostle’s teaching was the rule in the early church. Beginning with the very first converts at Pentecost all true believers looked to the Apostles leadership (Act 2:37). As the church grew, its faithfulness to the truth was described in these terms: “They continued steadfast in the Apostles’ doctrine”.

Jesus called the twelve “Apostles” – “apostoroi” in the Greek. The word simply means “messenger”, “sent-ones”. They were given a unique Ambassadorial office of authority and spokespersonship for Christ. The Apostles were given a delegated super natural power to work “signs and wonders” (Mt 10:1; Mk 6:7,13; Lk

9:12; Acts 2:3-4; 15:12). In a sense they were foundational in the church- Jesus Christ Himself being "The Chief Corner Stone".

2. The selection of the Apostles was a selection of ordinary men not men of outstanding intellect or ability (1 Cor. 1:26-29). The twelve whom He chose from among the wider circle of disciples were:
  1. **Simon**, whom He later named **Peter**, son of Jonah, and one of the most prominent of the Apostles.
  2. **Andrew**, his brother. It was Andrew who introduced Peter to the Lord.
  3. **James**, the son of Zebedee. He was privileged to go with Peter and John to the Mt. of Transfiguration. He was killed by Herod Agrippa I.
  4. **John**, James' brother. They were called "Sons of Thunder". It was John who wrote the Gospel and the epistles bearing his name, and the book of Revelation.
  5. **Philip**, a native of Bethsaida, who introduced Nathanael to Jesus. Not to be confused with Philip, the evangelist, in the book of Acts.
  6. **Bartholomew**, generally thought to be another name for Nathanael. He is mentioned only in the listing of the twelve.
  7. **Matthew**, the tax collector, also named Levi. He wrote the first gospel.
  8. **Thomas**, also called twin. He said he would not believe that the Lord had risen until he saw conclusive evidence.

9. **James the son of Alphaeus**, He may have been the one who held a place of responsibility in the church of Jerusalem after James, the son of Zebedee, had been killed by Herod.

10. **Simon called the zealot**, Little is known of him, as far as the sacred record is concerned.

11. **Judas the son of James**, Possibly the same as Jude, the author of the epistle, and commonly believed to be **Lebbaeus** (Mt 10:3; Mark 3:18).

12. Judas Iscariot, presumed to be from Kerioth in Judah, and thus the only one of the Apostles who was not from Galilee. The betrayer of our Lord, he was called by Jesus, "the son of perdition".

The Lord was more interested in quality than quantity. Given the right caliber of men, He could send them out and by the process of spiritual reproduction could evangelize the world.

The Evangelistic Witness continues to our Day-

- \*The early church Fathers
- \*The Reformers
- \*The Missionaries
- \*The Evangelists
- \*The Gossipers of the Gospel

Blessings!