

Luke 5:1-16 Bible Study

1. How do people usually respond if exposed as being guilty of something?
2. Read Luke 5:1-11 and Isaiah 6:1-8. What parallels are there between Isaiah's and Simon's experience in the presence of the Lord?

Realise they are in the presence of God – afraid because of sin – fear/sin addressed by the Lord – given a job by the Lord – obey.

3. One difference in Isaiah and Simon's experience is that Isaiah's sins are said to be atoned for in a particular action (the live coal). How might Simon understand that he is able to follow Jesus even though there is not this clear atoning action?

He understands in some way Jesus has come to deal with sin, to follow Jesus and to stay with him is how sin will be atoned for (see John 6:60-70). This side of the cross we know how Jesus has paid for sin in a full and final way.

4. How did the miraculous catch of fish help Simon realise at a deeper level who Jesus is? How might this experience and understanding help him when the role of 'catching people' seemed overwhelming and beyond possibility? How might Jesus on going work of calling people to himself encourage us in our role in making him known today?

Simon had seen and heard Jesus before, the catch was totally beyond human understanding and probably put all things together and realised Jesus was the creator God. Jesus makes the seemingly impossible, possible. He would call people out of sin even the most unexpected, and even through human witness. Jesus hooks people in, we pull them in.

5. Read Luke 5:12-16. Why does the man with leprosy and Jesus both talk about being 'clean' rather than healed?

Leprosy was a social disease, those who had it were impure and separate from others. The idea of defilement also separated the infected person from meeting with God (priest and temple) cleansing Jesus spoke of pointed to his greater work of removing sin that defiled all people and stopped them being able to come to God. (see 5:17-26)

6. Why does Jesus instruct the man as he does in verse 14? (cf Lev 14:1-32)

Shows Jesus' concern for complete compliance to the OT law. 'Don't tell anyone' Jesus mission was more than being used by people as an earth bound messiah healing disease. He was heading to the cross where he would deal with the greatest enemy, sin. He didn't want to have that confused as people focus on the miracles rather than the reason he came.

7. 'But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed' (16). With the large crowds to teach and the many people to heal, why do you think Jesus did this? (cf. Mat 26:36-44, Mark 1:35-38).

Jesus wanted/needed to check in with the father, to be refreshed, refocused on the true nature of his mission. Models the need for constant reliance and communion with the father, that followers like us have too.

8. How has the account of Simon following Jesus challenged/encouraged you in the way you follow Jesus?

Spend some time praying together about what you have learnt about God.