



We read our Bibles, not to become biblical historians, but to be transformed into the image of Jesus. That's why we've been systematically reading our Bibles as a congregation for several years. In this season, we are briefly adding to our daily Bible plan another assignment: reading through the Gospel of Luke—a chapter per day or in sweeping repetition—as much as we are able. Our goal, as we read Luke's presentation of Jesus' life and ministry, is to gain a clarity and familiarity we have not previously had. When we focus on this book, we can begin to get a sense of Luke's thought pattern and what he was trying to communicate. So, in our sessions together, we have been reviewing the Gospel of Luke, and today, we follow Jesus as He begins His public ministry and recruits His closest followers. Let's read the book of Luke with our imaginations turned on, putting ourselves on the shore of the lake with the fishermen, smelling the fish in the net, and witnessing the responses of the people to Jesus. As we do, we can expand our insight into what it means to be a follower of Jesus in *this* world.

I. RECRUITMENT: PETER'S RESPONSE TO JESUS

Luke 5:1–11¹ *One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God,*² *he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.*³ *He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*⁴ *When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."*⁵ *Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. **But because you say so, I will let down the nets.**"*

⁶ *When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.*⁷ *So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.*⁸ *When Simon Peter saw this, **he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"***⁹ *For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,*¹⁰ *and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; **from now on you will catch men.**"*¹¹ *So they pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him.***

***Describe a dramatic life change in your life or in the life of someone you know. How was it transformational?**

II. OPPORTUNITIES & CHOICES

Luke 5:17–26¹⁷ *One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.*¹⁸ *Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus.*¹⁹ *When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, **they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.***

²⁰ *When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*²¹ *The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*²² ***Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts?"***²³ *Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?*²⁴ ***But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...."*** He said to the paralytic man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."²⁵ *Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God.*²⁶ *Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

***Share a time when the Lord gave you an invitation. How did you respond? In hindsight, would you have responded differently?**

III. JESUS & SINNERS

Luke 5:27–39²⁷ *After this (healing of paralytic man), Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him,*²⁸ *and **Levi got up, left everything and followed him.***²⁹ *Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.*³⁰ ***But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"***

³¹ *Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.*³² *I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*³³ *They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking."*³⁴ *Jesus answered, "Can you make the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"*³⁵ ***But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast.***³⁶ *He told*

them this parable: “No one tears a patch from a new garment and sews it on an old one. If he does, he will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old.”³⁷ And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined.³⁸ No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins.³⁹ And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for he says, “The old is better.”

***In what ways are you seeing people sympathizing with their own sin? What are some practical ways you can help lead people toward repentance?**

IV. OPPOSITION & REJECTION

Luke 6:1–2 ¹ One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. ² Some of the Pharisees asked, “**Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?**”

Luke 6:3–11 ³ Jesus answered them, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? ⁴ He entered the house of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” ⁵ **Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”** ⁶ On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. ⁷ **The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath.** ⁸ But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Get up and stand in front of everyone.” So he got up and stood there. ⁹ Then Jesus said to them, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” ¹⁰ He looked around at them all, and then said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He did so, and his hand was completely restored. ¹¹ But they were furious and began to discuss with one another what they might do to Jesus.

***If we align ourselves with a biblical worldview, we will be rejected. How do the stories in the Gospel of Luke, where Jesus is being rejected, help you face rejection in your own life?**

Jesus Warns the Disciples

Luke 6:22–23 ²² Blessed are you when men hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. ²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their fathers treated the prophets.

Luke 6:24–26 ²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. ²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ **Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for that is how their fathers treated the false prophets.**

Luke 6:46–49 ⁴⁶ “**Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?** ⁴⁷ I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ **But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”**

***There are people who want the benefit of Jesus without the commitment of being a Christ-follower. Why do you feel people struggle to be obedient?**

A PROCLAMATION OF FAITH

God has uniquely blessed us --- the best is yet to come.

The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.

He is the sovereign creator of all things.

Nothing is too difficult for Him, His love sustains us.

Jesus, His only son, is our savior, Lord & King.

We live in a season of shaking. God is shaking the earth.

He is restoring the Jewish people and purifying His Church.

If we look at the things which can be shaken we will be filled with terror.

If we look at the eternal Kingdom of our Lord, we will be filled with anticipation.

Our determination as we gather today is to declare before one another & Almighty God

WE WILL NOT STOP!