

I. Peter, James and John - Luke 5:4-11

1. Circumstances (**verse 4**)
 - Jesus was through speaking
 - launch out into the deep
 - let down your nets
 - Rea -intentional catch
2. Reasons to make a good haul:
 - A. Unsuccessful the night before
 - B. A catch because he was about to leave the “job” of fishing
 - C. A spiritual object lesson
3. Peter’s response (**verse 5**)
 - A. Master we have toiled all night
 - B. “We” - Peter, James and John
 - C. But at your word we’ll try again
4. The catch (**verse 6**)
 - a great number
 - so many the net broke
5. Call for reinforcements (**verse 7**)
 - both ships filled
 - so much... began to sink
6. Peter’s response (**verse 8**)
 - fell at Jesus’ knees
 - depart I am a sinful man
 - Rea -he “gets it” - recognized the miracle. Some never see the miracle.
7. They are all “astonished” (**verse 9**)
8. Jesus changes Peter’s job - now you will catch men (**verse 10**)
 - Rea -we are in the people-catching business
 - they leave their nets and follow Him (**verse 11**)
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Their “call” experience
 2. Do you have “eyes” to see all that God is doing?
 - blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall “see” God
 3. This miracle was particularly meaningful for these fishermen - others might not “get it”

II. Levi - Luke 5:27-28

1. A publican named Levi (**verse 27**)
 - receipt of custom
 - Rea -tax table - a place to “receive” customs
2. The call is different for Levi - “follow me”
3. Followed Jesus - rose up and followed (**verse 28**)
- Rea 4. Same as the calling of the fishermen - “left all”
 - the fishermen and the tax collector were very different from one another
 - the “leaving all” is the same though

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Most leaders would have “passed over” both the simple fishermen and the Jewish tax collector (too much a traitor to the Jews)
2. Following does not mean they “understood” - we often do not understand but we still have to follow - we think we have to understand - so we never follow
3. Following means you have an encounter with Jesus - so you follow

III. Sinners - Luke 5:29-32

1. Levi makes a feast (**verse 29**)
 - other publicans and others
 - in his house
2. Obviously the Scribes and Pharisees were also there (**verse 30**)
 - they murmur
 - discuss what is a “murmur” - isn’t that the sound you hear from the back of the room at business mtg?
3. Three points are important:
 - A. They do not approach (speak) personally
 - B. They think they are superior
 - C. They believe that Jesus is not the Messiah if He hangs out with these people
- Rea 4. These are the “spiritual” people
 - have you ever noticed that often it is the “spiritual” people who are the most critical - why is that?
5. Jesus answered (**verse 31**)
 - answered in parable form - or analogy
 - the healthy do not need a physician
- Rea 6. The Pharisees do not recognize their own need
 - their own self-righteousness keeps good things from them
 - sick are these tax collectors - “sinful”
 - whole are the pharisees - “righteous”
- Rea 7. At the local church the altars are empty - does that mean we don’t feel we need to repent? - this might be why so many are not even offering an “altar call” - we’re too good for that
 - does this mean the gospel is only for “sinners?”
- Rea 8. Discuss “sinners” and “righteous” (**verse 32**)
 - we don’t even use those words any more... shouldn’t we?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. The tax collectors were outsiders - you don’t find them at the synagogue
 2. The church is a place for the needy - do you agree?
 3. Would you have called a Publican to be an apostle?
 - why or why not?
 4. Not all tax collectors followed Jesus