

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 5- Luke 5:1-11** 56- The Divinity of Jesus- Part 1

November 22, 2009

Luke 5:1-11

Some years ago there was a book entitled The Quest for the Historical Jesus. And that book offered itself as a scholarly, academic, scholastic attempt to bring together all of the diverse elements of legend and theology and history to try to find- in the midst of the maze of viewpoints- the real sure 'nuff historical Jesus. A similar effort was made by the late Peter Jennings on the ABC Network in that lengthy special called "The Search for the Real Jesus."

Now, all throughout the years- many thousands of scholars have made what is essentially a very hypocritical effort to find Jesus apart from the one place where He *can* be found in fullness, and that is in the pages of Holy Scriptures. Yet these people- on the one hand- deny the veracity of Scripture and they deny the authority of the Bible and they deny the inspiration of the New Testament- yet they claim to be offering a serious scholastic attempt to find Jesus when, in fact, the only historical record available of Jesus that can be found anywhere on earth is in the pages of the New Testament, and specifically- the Gospels. And, therefore- for anybody to disdain the New Testament, and to reject the New Testament, and to deny the truthfulness of the New Testament, and then go about to find Jesus is both futile and hypocritical.

If you want to find the real historical Jesus- He can be found easily. Just read **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. These are four verifiable, historical records of the Birth and Life and Ministry and Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And not only are these four records verifiable historically, not only are they accurate when you compare them, but these records of Jesus are inspired by God Himself

so that every Word of them is, in fact, true and trustworthy and reliable.

You cannot on the one hand reject the only true record of Jesus and then attempt on some scholastic level to try to find the real Jesus all the while looking in places where that information is not available or not reliable. That's just foolish and it is absurd and it is an insult to the Dignity of Almighty God- Who breathed out these infallible Words.

So it really is not all that difficult at all to find the real historical Jesus- if you simply turn to the pages of the New Testament, and specifically the four Gospels, and believe what they say. I thank God that He touched my heart and my life so that I could read and understand and believe what He said. How tragic it is for people not to know what the Owner and Creator of the Universe has said, and for them not to be able to understand what the God Who holds their heartbeat in His Hands has said, and for them to be so blinded by satan- so wicked in their own hearts- that they cannot believe what God has said.

And I was just that wicked and just that fallen and just that blinded by my own sin and my own pride and my own arrogance and my own self-worth that I could not see either- but God had mercy on me, and I shall never get over that moment when Grace first touched my life, and I shall never forget when the pure red Blood of Jesus washed my filthy black heart and made it whiter than snow.

Now you and I are engaged in a multi-year journey through one of those Gospels which reveals to us the true story of Jesus- which is also the Story of Salvation. The information that tells us how unworthy sinners may stand before a holy God and pass through His Judgment on their lives. And the real historical Jesus is found in this Document called the **Gospel according to the Evangelist- Dr. Luke** who wrote this historical record of the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ- the Son of God.

Now **Luke** is the longest of the four Gospels- so as we are learning- it takes a while to get through this Book because it is a very detailed treatment of the history of Jesus, and when you add this Book to **Matthew, Mark** and **John**- you have a relatively significant body of Divine Truth to learn and ponder and that will change your life completely because no Man is like Jesus.

And while **Luke** is the longest of the Gospels- it doesn't take the whole **Gospel of Luke** to get its message across. In fact, I would venture to say that you could discover the real Jesus in almost any paragraph in **Luke** that you want to choose. In fact, in just the text we have today- Chapter 5:1-11- there's enough information here to know exactly Who Jesus is. And it is very clear from these verses that Jesus is fully human- that He is completely in every aspect a real living man. He walks like a man and He talks like a man and He acts like a man, and He is accepted as being fully human by all the people around Him.

But it is also very evident in these very same eleven verses that open the fifth chapter of **Luke**- that in addition to being fully a Man- Jesus is much more than just a Man. And it is obvious that this Man named Jesus is also fully and completely God.

And this great mystery of the God/Man named Jesus was put into words by the great preacher of the third century- John Chrysostom who said,

"Jesus was fully God and fully Man in the same Body at the same time without conflict of contradiction"

But the best explanation of Jesus as being fully Human and fully Divine is best understood through the inspired Words of the Apostle John who said in John 1:

John 1:1-4,14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

And we are to marvel at this mystery and hold it dear and tremble before it and be humbled by it that God took on human flesh and became Man and took upon Himself the sins of us all and God poured out all His fury and all His Wrath that we deserved on Jesus, and Jesus

died with that Damnation on Him and descended into hell and left all of our sins there, and He rose the third day by the Glory of the Father without sin in the very same Body that he died in, and ascended up into Heaven to sit in Majesty at the Right Hand of God, and from that place Jesus is coming back to put an end to all sin and to vanquish satan forever and to cast all of those who have not been born from above into the lake of fire to burn forever.

So I plead with you this morning to turn from your sin and confess Christ as Lord and to believe in your heart that God has raised Jesus from the dead so that you may be saved today.

Now, what is interesting is that if all you had was **Luke 5:1-11**- you would have enough information to know about the Nature of Jesus Christ. And just from these eleven verses- you would have enough to understand the Ministry of Jesus Christ as well. This section of Holy Scripture is a profound incident in Jesus' Life that is revealing as to His very Essence as God.

And so while you have the whole body of the four Gospels, and while you have this lengthy **Gospel of Luke**- you're not dependent on all of that information to make the case about Jesus. As I said, any one paragraph might do it- and certainly this paragraph is enough and it is sufficient to indicate to us just Who Jesus Christ really is. And it is in the unique setting of a fishing incident that this Divine Revelation takes place and takes place unmistakably.

Nobody can read these verses with any honesty at all and conclude anything other than that Jesus is, in fact, God. So we could say then that the full Deity of Jesus Christ is the manifest theme of the opening verses of chapter 5. Jesus' Deity is made evident in the unfolding story that takes place on the shore of the Lake of Galilee in a fishing incident.

Now what happened that day was convincing enough that these men left everything they had to follow Jesus. The drama of this scene literally changed the lives of these disciples for the rest of their lives. They never ever got over this moment. And the power of this scene is so great that we should never be able to get over it just from reading about it.

Here is the Divine Fisherman- Jesus Christ and in this scene of just eleven verses- there are five Divine Attributes of God Almighty that are clearly manifest here.

Now when you think about the Nature of God- you must think about the Attributes of God- that which is true or characteristic of God's Own Divine and Eternal Nature- and those are the very things that you see here.

For example- one of the Attributes of God's Nature is Truth. God is Truth and He is full Truth and He is nothing but Truth. Another of the Divine Attributes of God's Nature is Omniscience. God knows everything about everything that God Created. God knows everything that exists in the material world and God knows everything that exists in the *immaterial* or the spiritual world. There is nothing that exists that God doesn't know about and that He doesn't know fully. And because God knows those things- Jesus also had that very same knowledge because Jesus is God with a human Body.

Thirdly, God is not only the *Source* of all Truth- He is also the Source also of all Knowledge and the Source of all Power. So when you think about God correctly- you must think of Absolute Power. God is Almighty God which means that God is all powerful. Another way of saying that is that God is Omnipotent. There is nothing or no one who is more powerful or even as powerful as God.

Now another of God's attributes is Holiness. And God is not just Holy- He is "holy, holy, holy!" And we need to know that Holy is different from Righteous. Holy means: *set apart or different or distinct*. And God is set apart more than anyone else precisely because no one is like unto God. God is different from anything that He made and God is unique and distinct from everything that He made. And God is better and more precious and more beautiful and more important than anything that He made. And it is this uniqueness, this apartness, or this holiness of God that allows God to deserve and to be entitled to our worship and our love and our devotion and our obedience.

In fact, the effort by sinful, fallen Man to make themselves to be like God, or to make God to be more like Man, that is the great sin of idolatry. God is not like us at all- He doesn't talk like us, He doesn't think like us, He doesn't move like us, and He doesn't view things the way that we view things.

We view all of life through eyes and with a brain that is fallen and sinful, while God views all things as the Perfect and Magnificent and Glorious Being that He is.

Another attribute of God is Mercy. It is so true that the more money and power and influence that we accumulate- the *less* merciful, the *less* patient, and the *less* kind we become- but God has all power and yet He is by Nature a Merciful God. God being all powerful has not warped His Merciful Nature

Now when you look at Jesus in this simple fishing incident that occurred this day in Galilee- what you see here in Christ is the very essential Character of God Himself. You see Divine Truth, You see Divine Omniscience, You see Divine Power, You see Divine Holiness, and you see Divine Mercy.

Here then is the manifest Nature of God Almighty visible and tangible in Jesus Christ. And this is why I say that you don't even need the entire four Gospels, or even the whole Gospel of Luke to see Christ's Divinity. These eleven verses alone are sufficient to indicate Who Jesus really is.

He *must* be God- because He is the Source of Truth, He *must* be God- because He is the Source of complete Omniscience, He *must* be God- because He is the Source of all Omnipotence, He *must* be God- because He is the Source of all Holiness, and Jesus must be God- because He is the Source of all Mercy. All five of these Divine Characteristics and Attributes of God's very Own Character and Nature are manifest right here in Jesus Christ.

Now let's look at the first one and it appears right away in the account in verses 1 through 3- so let's read those verses again together:

Luke 5:1-3

1 Now it happened that while the crowd was pressing around Him and listening to the word of God, He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret;
2 and He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake; but the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.
3 And He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And He sat down and *began* teaching the people from the boat.

Now here we see the manifestation of Divine Truth in Jesus. Verse 1 opens with what is called an "indefinite indicator" and you see this in the phrase, "**Now it happened**". Luke doesn't tell us when- he doesn't tell us how much time has transpired since the last incident of

the *prior* chapter- he simply uses this indefinite indicator to say, "Now it happened"- meaning at some point after the last incident- this happened.

Now you remember from last week- that Jesus had preached in the synagogue in Capernaum and He had cast a demon out of a man there- which was His first miracle that Luke talks about- and then you'll remember that after the service was over- Jesus went home to the house of Simon Peter where his mother-in-law was ill and Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of a very great infection that had produced a high fever.

And the news spread all around so that by the end of that Sabbath day- all the people in the city were bringing everybody who was sick with every imaginable disease and Jesus was healing them all and He was casting demons out of many- proving that He had all Power and Authority over both the natural and spiritual realms. And all this occurred in one day down in the synagogue at Capernaum in the home of Peter.

And then Luke tells us here that we have an indefinite passing of some time. And we don't exactly know what the chronology is- but this episode in Chapter 5- came about at some point after this incident in Chapter 4. But Jesus is still in Galilee and He's still preaching and He's still calling disciples and He's still performing these healings and casting out demons. And on one occasion when surrounded by a multitude- Jesus is near the lake of Gennesaret teaching the Word of God.

Now you need to know that Jesus is beginning to collect massive crowds. And there are a lot of ways to collect a crowd. A really good way to collect a crowd is to instantly and totally heal everybody who is sick and to cast devils out of everybody who is possessed. And that is why I am always amazed when I turn on the television and I see these healers on the Christian channel filling up these stadiums. Doesn't it amaze you? Ten thousand people, fifteen thousand, twenty thousand, fifty thousand, a hundred thousand people packing in? Sickness and disease and physical ailments are so massive a problem to us that you can jam a hundred thousand people in a stadium just by *promising* them you can heal. You don't even have to be able to heal anybody- just the *promise* of healing is enough to draw huge crowds of desperate

people who are easy to take advantage of by these shysters and pied-pipers and snake oil salesmen.

But if you really can instantly and totally heal sick bodies because you are God- then you can *really* draw a crowd! If you could actually heal sick people and if it weren't just some kind of false advertising- if you were actually healing people- you could draw a real big crowd in a hurry. And that's exactly what happened here with Jesus.

Jesus really could heal all the people who came to Him of any and every disease, and He could heal them instantaneously, and He could heal them totally, and this Man could actually heal them permanently. And that's exactly what Jesus was doing, and consequently the crowd was just exploding. In **Luke 4:14** we read:

... and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.

... and as the fame of Jesus went out- that He could heal and that He had total Power and Authority not only of all diseases but had total control over demons, too- the crowd would just get larger and larger.

And if you track through the entire **Gospel of Luke**, Chapter 5:19, Chapter 6:19, Chapter 8:4, Chapter 8:40, Chapter 9:11, and that remarkable verse in Chapter 12:1 that says the crowd was so big that the people were stepping on each other, Chapter 13:14&17, Chapter 14:25- as you just march all the way through- you see that the crowds just got bigger and bigger- huge massive crowds of people. And you begin to get the picture that when Jesus was teaching- He drew huge crowds because of His Power and because of the clarity and the uniqueness and the Power of His preaching.

Now remember a few weeks ago when I told you about the incident when Jesus was back in Nazareth when He was in the synagogue and the people said they had never heard any teacher like Him. A good communicator can draw a crowd. A great preacher can draw a crowd. He doesn't even have to be saved- but if he can speak well- the people will gather.

But Jesus was the greatest Communicator and the clearest Preacher that ever walked on the earth. And in a day when there was no media- speakers drew huge crowds if they were gifted communicators and orators. There never was anybody who could communicate the way Jesus could. No one had such clarity of thought.

No one had such grasp of the language. No one had such precision in presenting truth. No one could grasp the perfect illustration for the perfect point the way Jesus could. No one could make His point more deftly and more profoundly and more penetrating as Jesus could as a communicator because He was operating with the mind of God. And because of that, along with His ability to heal and cast out demons, masses of people flocked around to hear Him and to see the wonders, and even to participate in what He was capable of doing. And so the multitude is pressing around Him.

Now this isn't the only time this happened. It didn't matter where Jesus went- He *a/ways* drew huge crowds. But He was in Galilee, and if you have ever been to Galilee you know that in the very heart of Galilee- which is the northern part of the land of Israel- almost all the way up to the Lebanese border- bordered on the east by Jordan, on the west by the Mediterranean, that north part of Israel, the major location there is what is called the "Sea of Galilee", or as Luke calls it here- the "lake of Gennesaret", and it is so sometimes called the "Sea of Tiberias", and the Old Testament name was "Chinneroth". But that lake, 13 miles long and about 7 miles wide, dominates the area called "Galilee".

And to the east of that lake are the low ridges and then the flat lands of the wilderness that goes out to the east, and to the north of this lake are the great high mountains of Lebanon from which the water flows that creates the lake. And to the west are the fertile fields of grain and crops that extend all the way to the Mediterranean Sea. And on the Mediterranean Sea are several major cities. Tiberias would be a major city in the time of Christ on the western shore, and the north would be the city of Capernaum where Jesus is now.

And so Jesus spent a lot of His time around this lake. And it was a good place to speak to people because you could be at the shore and the slope would be a place that would create sort of a natural amphitheater and the people could hear.

But there was a problem. As the crowds got bigger and bigger and pushed and pushed, pretty soon they literally pushed Jesus out into the water. And we read about this in **Mark 3:9**. And we read about it again in **Mark 4:1**. So this was a somewhat typical problem to deal with in the Galilee as Jesus was addressing crowds that gathered around Him along the shore of that lake. And so that's what you see in verse 1. There are literally thousands of people crushing and pressing Jesus as

they listen to Him preach the Word of God. And it says in verse 1 that Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret.

Now Gennesaret may be a word that refers to garden, and could well be a reference to the fertile land on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee which is very defining. You see, as you get on to the Sea of Galilee you see these beautiful fields stretching all the way around from the north sweeping around to the west. And there are even some on the east. And so perhaps this is a term that reflected the garden environment that surrounded the water of that lake- but, whatever it is- this word "Gennesaret" is not technically a "sea". Luke is right in calling it a "lake" because it is a freshwater lake fed by the snow that melts and runs down from the Lebanese mountains- those high mountains that ultimately run south of the Sea of Galilee and comes down through the Jordan River which runs all the way down and empties into the very famous Dead Sea.

So there Jesus is on the shore with this mass of people coming out of towns and villages and cities, crowding around and eventually pushing Him. And it tells us here in verse 1- and this is a very important point- that these people were listening to the Word of God. They were listening to the Word of God. And this phrase is what is called a "subjective genitive" in the Greek language, and let me tell you what that means.

An accurate translation of this phrase is that these people were listening to the Word that *comes from* God. Not just the Word *of* God- but the Word that *comes from* God. And this is the first time that Luke uses the phrase "the Word of God," and to us it's a technical term.

Usually, when we say "the Word of God"- that's almost a technical synonym for the Bible. But try to look at this as a non-technical term, and as a descriptive term. This term "the Word of God" has not become a familiar part of Christian vocabulary- yet. And what Luke is saying here is that these people were listening to the Word that comes from God.

In other words, when Jesus spoke- just Who exactly was talking? God was talking when Jesus spoke. And God is the Source of Divine Truth. Jesus was not talking about something that He had read in another book somewhere, and Jesus wasn't talking about something that He had heard from somebody else. No, Jesus was the Source- the Originator of Divine Truth. Now, by the way- have you noticed that you

never find Jesus down at the library doing any research? You never find Jesus in His study. Jesus never read the Bible. Jesus never studied the Bible like we are supposed to do. He didn't need to read or study the Bible- He knew it backwards and forwards because He wrote it. Jesus didn't need any resource material because He was the Original Source of everything that He said. Jesus opened His Mouth and God spoke, and since He is Omniscient and already knew everything there was to be known- and all Truth came from Him- there was no reason to go anywhere else to find out about any information.

These people were so blessed to be listening to the Word that comes straight from God Himself. And it was the Word about Salvation, and it was the Word about entering the Kingdom of God. And it was the Word about the forgiveness of sins. It was the Word built on what God had given to the Prophet Isaiah and which the Holy Spirit had inspired Isaiah to write down 700 years earlier in **Isaiah 61**.

This was the "Good News" that through Jesus- the poor could be made spiritually rich. It was the "Good News" that through Jesus- the prisoners of sin could be set free by forgiveness. It was the "Good News" that through Jesus- the spiritually blind could be given sight. It was the "Good News" that through Jesus- the spiritually oppressed would be liberated to the glorious inheritance that God gives to His children.

So what these people heard as God spoke was the "Good News" of Forgiveness, Salvation and Eternal Life. And when Jesus preached this- the Word as coming from God Himself. And so these people were listening to the Word that comes from God.

Now Luke uses this very same phrase in Chapter 8:11 and Chapter 8:23, and again in Chapter 11:28. But this is the first time he uses it right here.

And so Jesus then is the Source of Truth. And when Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount up there on the hillside at the north end of the Sea of Galilee- and He finished that great sermon in which the Beatitudes really were the launch point- the introduction, the people said, *"He speaks as one having authority, not like the scribes and Pharisees."*

You see, the scribes and the Pharisees quoted from other sources, they quoted other people, and they gave opinions- just like we do today. They attached themselves to some of the current literature and some of the ancient literature to document their viewpoint. But Jesus never did

any of that. Jesus simply spoke Truth. And there was no other source of that Truth other than His Own Divine Mind. When Jesus spoke- it was God Almighty speaking.

And so Jesus was giving the long-awaited Divine Revelation of the Kingdom of God and how unworthy sinners could come into that Kingdom because God was providing Salvation through Him. And this was the "Good News" of forgiveness.

And it is very important for us to know that this was not just Jesus' *opinion*, and this was not Jesus' *viewpoint*. What Jesus said was not simply the way that He saw things, it wasn't His take or His spin- no, this was Absolute Divine Truth.

And we need to know that Jesus was also not a theologian, and He was not a scholar of the Old Testament, and He wasn't giving a sermon from prepared notes like I am. This was not human philosophy and this was not theological intuition. This was nothing short of pure Divine Revelation. This was God speaking. Jesus spoke and it was the Voice of God. No other man before or since has been able to do this.

And this is very clear to the reader of the **Gospel of Luke** in the very beginning in Chapter 1 when the angel Gabriel comes to Mary and said, "You're going to have a baby and that baby will be the Son of the Most High", verse 32. And verse 35, "He will be called the Son of God"; Son meaning "same" in Essence.

So we already know that Jesus is God- Jesus is God the Son, and, therefore, when Jesus speaks- God the Son speaks, and when God the Son speaks- God the Father speaks. When Jesus came to earth He came as God in human flesh and He spoke. Jesus said in **John 14:6**,

I am the way, and the truth, and the life...

...so Jesus is Truth. He is synonymous with Truth. He is one with Truth. **John 1:14** introduces Jesus by saying:

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

So Jesus is the fullness of Truth. He speaks nothing but the Truth. He is God, **Titus 1:2**, Who cannot lie.

Now please turn for a moment to the **Gospel of John 5:24**. Here the Apostle John makes a very strong point of this and I only want to arm you a little bit with regard to this. In **John 5:24** Jesus said,

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

So Jesus' Word, His Truth, is so powerful that it literally has the ability to take a person from death unto life, and, therefore, we can say that Jesus' Word *dispenses* eternal life, it issues Divine Life, and it hands out Divine Life. So if you listen to what Jesus says and believe it- you will have eternal life. And if you reject what Jesus says and disbelieve it- you will die in your sins. That is just how powerful Jesus' Word is. It is Divine.

And it is by that Word, the Apostle Peter said, that we are begotten again. It is by that Word of Jesus that we are transformed and given life. Jesus said,

"You hear My Words and you believe My Words, and those Words have Divine Power to give you life."

Repeatedly Jesus defended His Words as being the very Words of God. **John 7:16&17** says:

16 ... My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me.

17 If anyone is willing to do His will, he will know of the teaching, whether it is of God or whether I speak from Myself.

So by Nature- God is Truth. Satan is a liar by nature and the father of lies- but God is by Nature- Truth. Let God be true and every man a liar. God is *only* Truth and He is *always* Truth, and when Jesus- Who is God- spoke- what He spoke was the Truth, it was only the Truth, and it was always the Truth and it was nothing but the Truth.

Jesus said in **John 8:31b&32**,

31 ... If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.

The Truth that Jesus speaks will set you free from sin; the Truth that Jesus speaks will set you free from eternal damnation; The Truth that Jesus speaks will set you free from spiritual darkness and blindness. And the Truth is what Jesus says. Not what I say or what any other human being says- but the Truth is what Jesus says.

And if you believe what Jesus says- that is the Truth that saves you and sets you free. The four Gospels record the Words of Jesus and the twenty Epistles in the New Testament show us the depth and importance of what Jesus said and what Jesus did- but the Truth was proclaimed by Jesus. And it is the Truth that was proclaimed by the Apostles through the Spirit of Jesus that saves sinners. Please turn with me to **John 8:42-47**

42 ... If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

43 Why do you not understand what I am saying? *It is* because you cannot hear My word.

44 You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.

46 Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear *them*, because you are not of God.

So after all is said and done- you really only have two kinds of people in the world- those who believe the devil's lies and those who believe the Truth of God. Jesus told these self-righteous religious fakers that when He speaks- it is the very Voice of God, and if they love Him and believe in Him- they can hear those Words. But if they do not love Him and if they do not believe in Him- they cannot hear these Words.

So do you hear God's Word today? Can you hear the Word of the Lord? If you do not love Jesus or if you do not believe in Jesus- you will not be able to hear these Words and you need to be saved. But if you

love Jesus and if you believe in Jesus today- then you are gifted with the ability to hear the precious and Truthful Words of God every time that Jesus speaks.

Now I don't want to read all of the portions but **John 12:49** is very important- so please turn there with me. In **John 12:49&50**, Jesus says:

49 For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak.

50 I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me.

So we can see that God is Truth- that's one of His Divine Attributes. **Psalms 138:2** says:

I will bow down toward Your holy temple And give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word according to all Your name.

Now the word "above" here actually means: according- so in other words- the Psalmist is saying here that God magnifies His Word equal to His Own Glorious Name because His Word is the expression of His essential Truth. And why **Isaiah 65:16** says twice that God is the God of Truth.

And so, it says then in Luke 5 that Jesus was speaking the Words that come from God. And with that- you have evidence of Christ's Deity or His full Divinity.

So the Words of Jesus are not a human opinion, they are not mortal speculation, and they are not temporal intellect- these are not the words of a theologian or the words of a scholar- no, the Words of Jesus are the very Words of Almighty God Himself.

So as Jesus stands by the lake and speaks the very Word of God- the crowd is pushing Him, and in verse 2 it says He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake. And these would have been fairly large boats and so they wouldn't have been all the way up on dry land but the bow was pushed into the shore of that lake and they were there. And the fishermen had gotten out of them, verse 2 says, and they were washing their nets.

Now the fishing enterprise was a very, very consuming thing. What fishermen did back then took up both the days and the nights. They fished all night long and during the day- they had to repair their tackle and their boat, and in this case- their nets. And so it was daytime now and Jesus perhaps had begun His first lesson teaching in the morning, and then there is later to be more teaching when He gets into the boat.

So it perhaps is 11 o'clock in the morning, maybe even pressing noon by now. And Jesus sees as the crowd is pushing and pushing the two boats on the edge of the lake, and the fishermen gone and washing their nets to prepare for the next night of fishing.

Now this may be more information than you may want to know, but to know this makes this passage come alive. A fisherman of this region typically fished at night because at night the fish come to the surface and to the shore. Fishermen today will tell you that generally speaking- the cloudier the day, or the darker the sky, the better the fishing will be.

And in the sea of Galilee region, in the Galilee- it is blazing sun in the middle of the day, and so the fishermen typically would fish all night and spend the daytime repairing their nets and so forth so they could be prepared to fish again when night came. Days were the time to work on the equipment. And the nights were for fishing.

Now the boats they used were fairly large. We have a couple of incidents in the New Testament that indicate that to us. You have **Mark 4** where you have all the disciples in one boat and Jesus sleeping. Then you have **Mark 6** where you have all the disciples in the boat plus Jesus - so that's at least 13 people- and maybe even a crew to run the boat. And then you have another incident in **Matthew 8:23** that says that all the disciples were in the same boat. So these were big boats.

Now in this boat- you're going to see Jesus get in the boat and Simon gets in the boat and James and John get in the boat and probably there's a crew to assist in the fishing enterprise. So this would be a fairly large boat with some beams that could be used for the nets, with some winches that might be used to pull the nets in, with a sail that could be used to move the boat along as well as some oars with a hold so there was a deck and a hold below where the fish could be dumped into the boat after they were gathered in with the nets. So these boats would be sitting on the shore.

And these boats that would be manned by whoever owned the boat- the people who were the owners as well as a crew who served in the fishing enterprise.

So there the boats are sitting at the edge of the lake. And verse 3 says He got into one of the boats which was Simon's. Now there's a reason for this. The Lord didn't do anything just by accident. Everything was intentional, Divinely intentional, Sovereignly purposeful. And it was time to bring Peter to full commitment and to bring those who followed Peter's leadership- in this case James and John- to their full commitment as well.

Now let me give you a little bit of background. Jesus first met Peter back in **John 1**. And John records the first time they met. Jesus met Peter and his brother Nathaniel. That was the first meeting and at that time Jesus called them to follow Him. So this was sort of the first step in their following Jesus. And it was later on- recorded in **Mark 1:16-20**, and **Matthew 4:18-22** that there was a *second* calling.

The first time they just sort of follow Jesus. Later on, as recorded in **Mark 1** and **Matthew 4**, Jesus made a more direct call, and I guess they could say, we could say, they became part-time followers, only in that case it was Peter, and James and John who were the sons of a man named Zebedee. And they were all partners in the fishing business. So they had already had a couple of encounters with Jesus. Peter, that first calling with Nathaniel, and the second calling with James and John.

Now Peter is beginning to know Jesus because Peter is following Him. And that's why in chapter 4- after the synagogue service- when it was dinner time- Jesus went to Peter's house. Jesus knows Peter now, and Peter has become at least a part-time follower- who did a little bit of fishing and a little bit of following Jesus.

So it hasn't been too difficult for Peter to follow Jesus yet and fish because Jesus has stayed in Galilee, and so Peter could connect at certain points between his necessary employment as a fisherman. And so Jesus knows Peter- but now it's time to take Peter to another level.

Now by the way- Jesus did this with Peter throughout his whole life- even after the Resurrection- always trying to get Peter to the level He wanted him at. And Peter was evidently a very reluctant and a difficult guy to deal with. So much different than we are, right? Aren't you glad that you are easy for Jesus to lead and teach? Aren't you glad

that Jesus only has to tell you something one time and you just immediately spring into action and instantly obey Him? Well, Peter wasn't like that.

But Peter was recognized as being the leader of the Apostles. And so it was important to have Peter where he needed to be because he was the one who had seemingly the greatest influence on all the rest. And so Peter is seemingly the key person for the Lord.

Now in the New Testament- you have four lists of Apostles. **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **The Acts**, and in all four- Peter's name is always first. So Peter is clearly recognized by all the writers as being the spokesman and the leader of all of the Apostles. And so Jesus is going to work on Peter a little bit, and James and John, as we see, will follow along. But Peter is the target here and so Jesus wants to get into Peter's boat, and that's exactly what He does.

Now Peter is called Simon here- and he will be called Simon by Luke until we get to Chapter 6:14- when he is finally identified as Peter. By this time in the other Gospel accounts- the Lord had already changed his name- but it didn't get changed in the text of Luke until the sixth chapter- although Jesus does refer to him here in verse 8 as Simon Peter, which sort of helps us make that transition.

So Jesus gets into Peter's boat. And now it's going to be school time for Peter because Jesus is going to reveal to Peter and the others just Who He really is. So **Luke 5:3** says that Jesus told Peter to:

... put out a little way from the land ...

In other words- "Let's get this boat back off the shore or we're going to get pushed into the water here". So because the crowd has gotten right down to the edge- Jesus needs some space. And by the way- water is a very good conductor of sound, and this lake is a fairly flat lake and gentle surface of that lake would make a good point to sort of bounce the sound to that crowd of thousands that had gathered, and it would give Jesus a little bit of distance.

And so He asked Peter to put out a little way from the land, so Peter gets in the boat and whoever else needed to help him handled this boat and push it back off the shore and stabilize it in the water so that Jesus could sit down, it says in verse 3, and began again to teach the multitudes from the boat.

So this is the second set of lessons. The first one is completed now and the crowd is getting bigger and bigger and they are pressing ever closer to Jesus and they've been listening to the Word of God, but now Jesus has to get away into the water and He teaches them again.

Now just a reminder here- this is relentless on Jesus' part. No matter what the situation- no matter what the difficulties, no matter how much the press of the crowd is- Jesus never stopped teaching. He simply found a way to keep teaching the people- because this is at the heart of why Jesus came. He came to seek and to save the lost in order to bring them the Truth because you can't be saved apart from the Truth. Lies do not and lies cannot save anybody. That is why we who are in ministry are commanded to preach the whole counsel of God, and that is why there are such terrible consequences for those who twist the Truth or who shy away from the Truth or those who are ashamed of the Truth or those who try to change the Truth. Lies do not save anybody; false teaching does not save anybody; doctrines of demons cannot save anybody.

It always amazes me to hear the argument that people give as to why we don't need Sound Biblical Doctrine. These people argue that we don't need doctrine- that all we really need is love. But my response is that true love proves itself through obedience, and it is practically impossible to obey Jesus without knowing and believing what Jesus said, and it is practically impossible to worship Jesus without knowing Who Jesus is, and the one single place on earth that we can go to that teaches us Who Jesus is and what Jesus said is the Holy Scriptures. So by reading and studying and rightly interpreting Scripture- by knowing Sound Biblical Doctrine- we will know Who Jesus is and we will know what Jesus said, and through that knowledge we can genuinely worship Jesus in Spirit and in Truth, and we can obey Jesus which proves our love for Him.

So, Sound Biblical Truth is not a hindrance to loving Jesus- not at all. Sound Doctrine that is not man-made but which is right from the Holy Bible is the road that gets us to the place where we can love and obey Jesus.

Now it is interesting to see that no difficulty ever interrupted Jesus' teaching and preaching. And this is critical. You can set all the miracles aside and you can set all the casting out of demons aside and

you can set all the supernatural wonders aside, but you cannot set the teaching aside.

And so, Jesus must continue His teaching. He must continue to preach to the poor and the prisoners and the blind and the oppressed who need to hear the message of forgiveness and the Kingdom of God.

And Jesus sat down, it says in verse 3, in a traditional, rabbinical posture for teaching, and continued His instruction, teaching the multitudes from the boat again the Word of God. Now let me just inject this, folks, and I don't want to beat a dead horse to death- but this particular horse isn't dead yet. I keep reminding you, and I just did that series on deliverance, and I was telling you in that series on deliverance that there is a rapidly exploding movement within the "evangelical Church" to deny that it is necessary to hear the Gospel to be saved. But Scripture declares that this teaching is just flat out wrong.

No matter how many people in our day put down Biblical teaching and expositional preaching and line upon line and precept upon precept teaching from God's Word- no matter how unpopular serious, deep Bible Study is in our day, no matter how many people minimize the importance of Sound Scriptural Doctrine- the fact of the matter is that Jesus was relentless about teaching. He was relentless about the proclamation of the Truth. And He told His disciples- *"When I'm gone- you leave the comfort of your own homes, and you leave the security of your own environment, and you allow this radical God-sent Love to inconvenience your lives, and you abandon your own places and you set aside your own ambitions and you go out into all the world"*, and do what? Jesus said, *"You go to every creature on the face of this earth and you preach the Gospel to them."* It's fine if you feed them and it's fine if you clothe them and it's fine if you befriend them- that's all okay- but I want you to preach the Gospel to them- that is the main focus that Jesus wants from all those who belong to Him- for us to preach the Gospel.

And so I ask you this morning. Are you obeying Jesus about this? And are you going everywhere- all over, and are you preaching the Gospel? Do you preach at school? Do you preach at home? Do you preach at the store? Do you preach at work? Do you preach and preach and preach the Gospel to every creature? That is what Jesus said for us to do- go and preach.

And then do you actively and on-goingly support those who preach across the city and across the state and across the nation and across the world?

But we can't stop there. Because Jesus said that we need to do something else besides go and preach. Jesus also said that we are to teach those to whom we preached the Gospel and who heard it and who were saved- we are to teach them to observe and do all the commandments that Jesus gave to us.

So now after we preach- we must teach, and we must teach old and young, and men and women, and the educated and the uneducated, and we must teach rich and poor, and we must teach black and white and red and yellow and every color in between.

Jesus commanded every single believer on the face of the earth to take the Gospel to every creature to the ends of the earth because there is no Salvation for anyone apart from the correct and full preaching of the Gospel. Nobody gets saved unless the Gospel is preached and they hear it and believe it.

And these modern day heretics are teaching that essentially says people are going to get to heaven and they're going to get into the Kingdom of God from all different points of belief and without the Bible and without the Gospel. And we need to know that this is not new.

And I just want to take a minute or two to show you that this is not new. This is an old heresy. This is an old heresy that is part of the Roman Catholic Church. And this heresy goes back to Thomas Aquinas when he invented this heresy called "natural theology", and I suppose you could even call it "rational theology"

And this is the idea that you can get to God through natural means- and not through the Gospel. Aquinas taught that people can get to God through your own rational mind so that wherever you are in whatever culture and whatever religion and whatever particular system of belief or non-belief, if you follow your own rational thinking back to the fact that there must be a God, and you live a good life- then you will eventually become saved and you are going to come into the Kingdom of God and go to heaven- even if you never see a Bible or ever hear the Gospel.

Listen, the Roman Catholic Church has believed that heresy for almost 1,000 years. And it is in their official catechism. And that is why the Vatican welcomes Hopi Indian witch doctors and embraces

them. That is why they have confabs with Buddhists and Muslims and everybody else and all religions- because they buy into the natural theology lie. And this is why the pope can embrace a Muslim cleric and say that they are both "pilgrims on the same journey". Well that may be true and the pope may be on the same journey as a Muslim cleric- but Jesus wasn't and I'm not, and I pray that you aren't either.

Jesus never bought into natural theology, and neither should we. Jesus said to go and preach and teach the Gospel, and He went to great lengths to give us this Gospel, and so we are to prove our love for Jesus by taking this precious Gospel and preach it without fear or fail, and without ever being ashamed of it to every creature. And Jesus Himself set the best example for all of us by being relentless in His Own Preaching and Teaching.

Let's come and pray.

© 2008- 2015 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1996 by The Lockmann Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse study of **The Gospel According to Luke**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.