

# A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

## An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 5- Luke 5:1-11**

### 58- The Divinity of Jesus- Part 3

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December 6, 2009

#### **Luke 5:1-11**

Now in the passage that we are studying right now- there are five Divine Attributes of God Almighty that are clearly manifested in Jesus. And this makes Jesus to be Divine and it proves His Own Divinity, or in other words- these five Characteristics prove that Jesus is not only fully Human- but that Jesus is also fully God.

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.

1. Jesus is Divine Truth
2. Jesus is Omniscience
3. Jesus is Omnipotent
4. Jesus is Holy
5. Jesus is Merciful

And that is what Luke is dealing with us here about. Luke wants us to look at Jesus; he wants us to see Jesus and to savor Jesus and to drink in Jesus and to taste and see that the Lord is good. I think that we don't do that much anymore. I don't really believe that we spend much time to look at Jesus and to marvel at Him. We are too busy worried about what Jesus might do for us, and what Jesus might give to us, we are spending an exorbitant amount of time trying to get Jesus to do things for us and to give things to us that we don't spend very much time marveling at Him and valuing Him and allowing Jesus- just Jesus-

not what He can do for you and not what He can give to you and not about healing you or blessing you or doing something for you- but just taking time to marvel and to be in awe of Him.

How long has it been since you were in awe of God? How long has it been- if ever- since you had your breath taken away by the Majesty and the Beauty and the Wisdom and the Brilliance and the Glory of God? Where you were speechless and silent and worshipped God for Who He is and not only because of what He has done for you?

That is why Luke wrote this portion of Scripture in Chapter 5- he wants Theophilus and us to stop what we are doing, and shut down our lives, and get out of our plans, and put an end to our agendas, and stop all the things that we want God to do for us, and Luke wants us to just look at Jesus and to marvel at Him and to be in awe of Him.

And so He give us these five Divine Attributes so that we will be speechless and stunned, and like Peter- we will be humbled and all of our trappings of self-importance will be stripped away, and we will fall down on our faces and acknowledge our sin before a holy God.

We need to spend more time looking at Jesus and less time looking at ourselves, and we need to be moved by what we see in Jesus and be changed by how glorious Jesus is to us.

We are told that we are to live our lives to the Glory of God and that is so true- we *are* to live our lives to the Glory of God- yet I fear that if you were to ask the average person today to describe that Glory, to put into words the Glory of God that we are to live our lives to- he would have very little to say- and the reason for that is because we do not spend much time thinking about God.

But I say to you that God is unimaginably Great, God is infinitely Valuable, God is unsurpassed in Beauty. The psalmist wrote in **Psalms 145:1-3:**

**1 I will extol You, my God, O King, And I will bless Your name forever and ever.**

**2 Every day I will bless You, And I will praise Your name forever and ever.**

**3 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, And His greatness is unsearchable.**

Just think about that. How many times have you been captured by the greatness of God like this writer was here? Not very often- I

would guess. And then think about the things that you do put the label of greatness on? That was a great meal; that was a great song; that was great football game; that was a great sale at JC Penney's; that was a great business transaction. No!

**Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.**

God is great and His greatness is unsearchable, and we need to be in wonder about that greatness so that when we worship God- it will not be haphazard or lazy worship, and worship that is without our full attention, and our full energy, our full passion, and our full joy. Turn with me to **Isaiah 43**:

**1 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine!**

**2 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.**

**3 “For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place.**

**4 “Since you are precious in My sight, *Since* you are honored and I love you, I will give *other* men in your place and *other* peoples in exchange for your life.**

**5 “Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west.**

**6 “I will say to the north, ‘Give *them* up!’ And to the south, ‘Do not hold *them* back.’ Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth,**

**7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”**

**8 Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, And the deaf, even though they have ears.**

**9 All the nations have gathered together So that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this And proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, Or let them hear and say, “It is true.”**

**10 “You are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am**

He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.

11 “I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me.

12 “It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange *god* among you; So you are My witnesses,” declares the LORD, “And I am God.

13 “Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?”

14 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, “For your sake I have sent to Babylon, And will bring them all down as fugitives, Even the Chaldeans, into the ships in which they rejoice.

15 “I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King.”

16 Thus says the LORD, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters,

17 Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (They will lie down together *and* not rise again; They have been quenched *and* extinguished like a wick):

18 “Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past.

19 “Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.

20 “The beasts of the field will glorify Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My chosen people.

21 “The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.

22 “Yet you have not called on Me, O Jacob; But you have become weary of Me, O Israel.

23 “You have not brought to Me the sheep of your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, Nor wearied you with incense.

24 “You have bought Me not sweet cane with money, Nor have you filled Me with the fat of your sacrifices; Rather you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities.

25 “I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

26 “Put Me in remembrance, let us argue our case together; State your *cause*, that you may be proved right.

27 “Your first forefather sinned, And your spokesmen have transgressed

against Me.

**28 “So I will pollute the princes of the sanctuary, And I will consign Jacob to the ban and Israel to revilement.**

Our entire existence should be wrapped up in you and me showing the praises of Him Who has graciously and wondrously called us out of the horrible darkness of our sin and into His marvelous Light- and nothing else matters.

The Apostle Paul was perhaps one of the most brilliant men who ever lived, and the masterpiece of theology that he wrote- that we call **Romans**- explains in great detail how unworthy sinners are able to stand before a Holy God and pass through His Judgment on our lives, and Paul got carried away with this very concept toward the end of that Epistle and he said this about the Glory of God is sending forth His Amazing Grace to us in **Romans 11:33-36**

**33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!**

**34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?**

**35 Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?**

**36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.**

So everything that is - is *from* God, and everything is sustained *by* God, and everything is going to go back *to* God in praise and adoration, and so that at the end of all time- God Alone will shine in the radiant Brilliance of His Majestic Righteous Glory.

Everything is designed by God and everything is designed for God- so that God is glorified in them and the wonders of all wonders is that you and I are called and chosen to be a part of all of that.

And the superiority of the New Covenant is that what is true about God the Father is true about God the Son, and I want you to turn with me to read about this in **Colossians 1:**

**16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

**17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.**

**18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

**19 For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,**

This could not be any clearer- everything exists for Jesus Christ and He is to have the preeminence- He is to be first- and never second- Jesus is always first always first, always on top, and never on the bottom- and in Jesus Christ all fullness dwells.

People ask me all the time how I have such a good marriage and I tell them I have such a good marriage because my wife is *not* the most important person in my life. I love my wife, dearly- I would die for my wife without any hesitation- but I love Jesus and I honor Jesus ten thousand times more than I love and honor Rhonda. And I always try to put Rhonda before *myself* but I always try to put Rhonda way behind Jesus because Jesus is to have the preeminence in all things, and in Jesus is all the fullness of God dwelling.

My marriage is a Glory to God because my marriage is *not* the most important thing to me. Christ is more important than my marriage, and Christ is more important than my wife, and Christ is more important than me, and Christ is more important than money and food and clothing and my breath and my possessions and whether I live or whether I die.

And to say that all things were created for Christ does not mean that all things were created so that they could improve on Christ or make Christ better or so that Christ could somehow become more complete through the things that were made- not at all.

It is commonly taught in the modern Church that God created everything because He was lonely and wanted a family and God sits up in Heaven hoping that somebody will call Him and hoping that somebody will love Him- and as diplomatic as I can be- let me just say flat out to you that that kind of teaching is blasphemy. It is evil because it belittles the Majesty and the Glory and the Omnipotence of the one true living God.

No, all things were created so that they might *display* the Glory of God in the Face of Jesus Christ- that is why they were created. And we need to know that we are not doing God any favor by loving and worshipping Him because God is so lonely and He needed a friend, and we are helping out poor old God by paying Him lip service and by tipping Jesus a quarter on Sunday.

No, in His pristine breathtaking Brilliance- God cannot even begin to fathom having any need at all- much less needing my praise so that my praise could somehow validate God.

No, God is the One Who did *me* a favor by taking on human flesh and becoming Man and dying on a Cross for my evil sins, and allowing me the honor and the privilege of serving Him and loving Him throughout all eternity.

And, so, if you and I are going to ever hope to live our lives to the Glory of God- then the Church has got to preach less about things like how to have more money and how to get more possession and how to build up our own self-esteem and how to have a good marriage and how to feel better about ourselves, and the Church is going to have to preach more about God and Who He is and What He is like and What pleases Him and What displeases Him and the Preeminence of Jesus Christ in all things.

So Luke invites us this morning in these eleven verses to stand and wonder after Christ, to stand and be amazed at Jesus, and to be stunned by the Glory of God that is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the modern Church- the view of God is so small instead of huge, it is so marginal instead of primary, it is so vague instead of clear, and so impotent instead of effectual, and so uninspiring instead of ravishing, so that when people are saved- the very notion of living their lives to the Glory of God is a thought that has absolutely no content or meaning.

We know how to talk about living our lives to the Glory of God because we have songs that speak about it all day long- but we have spent so little time with the Glory of God that is found only in Jesus Christ in the Church over the last 75 years that most people simply don't have a clue what your even talking about.

Ask the average person who sits on the average pew in the average Church today to talk about the Glory of God- and you will have a very short speech.

What does the Glory of God look like? Sinclair Ferguson said,

"We should expend energy admiring, exploring, expositing, and extolling the Glory of God that is in Jesus Christ"

So if our lives are to be led for the Glory of God- then we must not teach primarily about our lives- but we must teach primarily about the Glory of God. We need to teach about God, about God the father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Our pulpits today are not filled with broken men who preach with passion about how Great and how Marvelous and how Good and how Beautiful and how Majestic and how Glorious God is, and they don't preach much about the details of God's Glory- but our pulpits are filled with comedians and prima donnas and entertainers who preach about the Glory of Man, and how beautiful we are and how great we are and how much we can do and how much we can accomplish and how much money we can make and how many nice things we can own but they are very vague about God.

And the result of this Man-centered shallow selfish preaching is that we are no longer amazed at the Glory of God's Eternality that would make our minds explode with the thought that God never had a beginning.

Or the Glory of God's Knowledge that makes all the information found on the Internet look like a comic book, and makes nuclear physics look like a cartoon, or the Glory of God's Wisdom that has never been or never can be counseled by any man or any group of men, or the Glory of God's Authority over Heaven and Earth and Hell and Angels and Demons and without which no man and no demon can move one inch.

Or the Glory of God's Providence about which not one tiny little insignificant sparrow can hop on the ground or without which not one single eyelash of a single baby can grow without God ordaining it. Or the Glory of God's Word that upholds the entire Universe and all the galaxies and all the atoms in it, or the Glory of God's Power to walk on water and cleanse lepers and open blind eyes and curse the fig tree, and make man out of the dust of the earth, and speak words to create light out of darkness, and to fling the stars out into space, and to touch the mountains and make them smoke, or take red Blood and wash a black heart and make it whiter than snow.

Or the Glory of God's Purity to never sin or to even have a bad attitude for one single millisecond or one evil thought. Or the Glory of



God's Trustworthiness- never to break His Word or let one single Promise fall to the ground.

Or the Glory of God's Justice- to render all moral account in the Universe settled- either on the Cross or in Hell- there will be no outstanding injustices at the end of time- people will either be redeemed or they will burn forever in the lake of fire- but there will not be one single injustice left unsettled.

Or the Glory of God's Patience- as God has long endured decade after decade after decade of Blair Bradley's slow Sanctification. Or the Glory of God's Sovereign slave like Obedience to embrace the most excruciating pain and suffering that has ever been invented by any man because Jesus would rather obey His Father than live.

Or the Glory of God's Wrath that will one day be revealed with such fierceness and terror that men and women and children will cry for the rocks to fall on them to hide them from the Lamb of God.

Or the Glory of God's Grace which fully and completely justifies the ungodly like me, or the Glory of God's Love- that a perfect and sinless God would take on human flesh and die for us while we are yet sinners.

Dear brothers and sisters- until we preach and teach and live out the details of the Glory of God- until we put clarity and distinctions on our God instead of using broad and vague generalities to describe this Glory- until we make God look irresistibly magnificent- and more attractive than anything else in this world- nobody's life and nobody's marriage and nobody's Church is going to be lived for the Glory of God.

And so if we do not even comprehend God's Glory, and if we are not stunned by God's Glory, and if we are not passionate about knowing and learning and touching and seeing and understanding and smelling and tasting and relishing God's Glory- how in the world are we ever going to live our lives to it?

How in the world are we going to have the energy and the stamina and the dedication and the determination and the strength to go through what we have to go through and to face what we have to face and to conquer what we have to conquer unless we are absolutely smitten with the Glory of this risen Christ that we are supposed to live our lives to?

My dear friends- we are way too silly in our day, way too frivolous, way too small in our thinking, and way too eager to be entertained in

Church, way too excited about simple and surface and shallow and temporary things that are passing way and that are not primary and that are not deep and that are not profound and that are not life changing and that have nothing to do with God being large and bigger than us and more important than us.

There is an atmosphere in the modern Church that deeply disturbs me and one that I think is actually detrimental and counterproductive and a hindrance to genuine Spirit and Truth Worship that they say they want and that they say they are pursuing- and that is this notion that people start celebrating as soon as the music starts to play.

That as soon as the music starts to play- people start dancing all around and jumping up and down and moving about and expending all kinds of physical energy. And look- I'm all about energy and I'm all about passion and I'm all about joy- but there are times when we need to be moved on like Peter here who saw a fantastic miracle right before his eyes, and instead of shouting and screaming and dancing all over the place- instead of focusing on the miracle and wanting even more- Peter was deeply and profoundly convicted of his own sin and he fell down at Jesus' Feet and confessed his sin and asked Jesus to leave.

So what we see in Jesus here is that He spoke the Words that come directly from God. Now I want you to look with me again at **Luke 5:4-6:**

**4 When He had finished speaking, He said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”**

**5 Simon answered and said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets.”**

**6 When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets *began* to break;**

Now this shows the second Divine Attribute of God that Jesus had which is Divine Knowledge- also called Omniscience.

Omniscience is a three dollar word that means “all knowing”. And this term means that God knows everything about everything. This means that God’s intellectual capabilities are unlimited and that God uses those intellectual capabilities fully and perfectly every second of every day.

There is nothing that can be known about anything that God does not know in fullness. And to us that means that God never learns new things. God is never at a loss as to what to do and nothing ever takes God by surprise. God is never nervous due to His lack of knowledge and God never worries about the future because He alone controls the future.

Omniscience also means that God is not limited by space or time as far as knowledge is concerned. God knows everything that has ever happened and everything that is happening right now, and God knows everything that will happen at any point in time with or to anyone in the future.

Omniscience also means that nothing is hidden to God. God knows the heart of every Man who has ever or who will ever live fully and completely, and is able to answer the prayers of all of His people simultaneously without conflicting His Own good Pleasure in any way. God knows the entirety of time past, present, and future all at once without conflict or confusion, and is able to use this knowledge to such an extent to assure that His Will is always carried out.

So because He is Omniscient- Jesus knows where the fish are, right? I mean these trained seasoned fishermen had labored all night long and had not caught anything, and Jesus guarantees them a catch. And this is Divine Omniscience. And this is what flows out of this. God's Understanding is unsearchable, **Isaiah 40:28-31** says,

**28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.**

**29 He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.**

**30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly,**

**31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.**

**Hebrews 4:13**

**And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.**

God knows where every fish in every lake and every ocean is at all times because God Omnisciently knows everything that exists in the material and the immaterial world, and the condition and state of everything, not only now but in the past and the future.

And what that means to us and what that meant to Peter is that God knows our hearts and God sees our sin and God knows our struggles and our agony, and God sees our anguish and our crying and our suffering because God knows more about us than we know about ourselves.

I want us to turn to **John 1:44-51** and behold the Glory of the Omniscience of Jesus Christ.

**44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter.**

**45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and *also* the Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”**

**46 Nathanael said to him, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”**

**47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, “**Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!**”**

**48 Nathanael said to Him, “How do You know me?” Jesus answered and said to him, “**Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.**”**

**49 Nathanael answered Him, “Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.”**

**50 Jesus answered and said to him, “**Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You will see greater things than these.**”**

**51 And He said to him, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.**”**

Now I have no idea what Nathaniel was doing under the fig tree- but whatever he was doing- he didn't think anybody saw him or that anybody else knew about it. And when Jesus told Nathaniel that He saw him under the fig tree- Nathaniel knew that this Man named Jesus- was God and that He was Omniscient.

God knows everything, dear friends, and that means that God understands our problems better than we do- so we can take great

comfort in the fact that when it seems to us that God does not answer our prayers, and when it seems that God allows the suffering and the pain to go on- that because He is Omniscient- He is more aware of your situation that you are, and the Promise of Scripture is that God is faithfully and lovingly and graciously working that suffering and that pain and that tragedy together with everything else that He has Sovereignly brought into your life- for the greater "Good" of the Glory of God. That is why Jesus being Omniscient is important to us.

Nothing in the universe is beyond His full and complete comprehension.

Now this is way more than you want to know, but I'm going to tell you anyway. There were two kinds of fishing nets in that day. There was a one-man hand-held net. And there's a couple of references to that in the New Testament in **Matthew 4** and in **Mark 1**, those comparative passages to **Luke 5** where the Lord was calling Simon and Andrew. They were fishing with a one-man net and they used the one-man net along the shore when it was dark or at dusk or at night or right before the dawn, and you would walk in the shallow water of the Sea of Galilee until you came to the school because the fish would come to the surface and to the shore in the dark, and you had essentially a large circle weighted net on the outside- the perimeter was weighted and in the middle- you had a cord you held in one hand, and you spun that net and sent the weights out over the school of fish.

So these fishermen would walk along the shallows until they came to a school of fish and they flung the net and the weights then went down and sunk to the bottom and surrounded the fish. And they had a cord in their hand and they pulled the cord tight and essentially what they had was a catch of fish. That's a small one-man net.

But the kind of net that Luke talks about here is a generic word for net, *diktuon*- and that word doesn't tell us- but we know the kind of net this was because Luke tells us that it took two boats to work this net so we know that this net was called a *sagena*, *asagenaor*- sometimes called a "seine". And this is a massive, huge net. It is a net that is generally put in the fishing experience of Peter between two boats and history tells us it could be as long as a half mile- a very, very, very large net and it had corks on the top and it had weights on the bottom. So when the two boats separated- it created a wall of net and into that wall of net everything would literally swim and be collected, and then the

net was held by cords and some winches pulled together and pulled together and pulled together until you had this massive potential to catch whatever was inside.

And that is what they were using here- this great *sagena*. Well, in order to operate this you had to have a fairly large and experienced crew of men. This was a large operation. This was a very big net. We can only imagine a half a mile of net piled up on a boat and dragged out and spread out as the boat separated, covering this massive amount of area.

Now a problem as that in the middle of the day- at the brightest point of the sunlight- the fish could be so deep that they were below the ability of even that net to go down far enough to catch them. And Luke tells us that Peter and the rest had fished all night and had caught absolutely nothing- so from Peter's many years as a fisherman- his experience told him that there were no fish to be caught that day. And now that it was getting to be daylight- there was simply no way they were going to catch any fish.

Now we need to remember that Peter has been fishing in this great lake for many years- so this is his lake- this is his area. He knows what he knows and he cannot resist telling the Lord that in verse 5.

**Simon answered and said, “Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets.”**

Now the word "Master" as used in this verse is a term of respect- but it does not refer here to Deity. Master comes from the Greek word *epistates*, and it means: *chief, or commander, or one in authority*. So Peter is following Jesus - but only at a distance- like most people in Church today- he's not yet quite there in terms of fully understanding Who Jesus is, but Peter thinks he is following Jesus and he sees Jesus as his leader or his commander- but not his Lord and Savior.

And this is never more aptly illustrated than in America during this time of the year when everybody is rushing around doing things and buying gifts- all because of this cute little baby in the manger.

But we need to know, dear friends, that this cute little baby grew up and he began to teach and He began to preach the Gospel, and they hated Him for it and they tried to kill Him and they rejected what Jesus

said and they despised His Words and they did not repent so they might be saved.

Jesus is the only preacher Who spoke perfect Words and had a perfect ministry, and after 3-1/2 years of only speaking perfect Words through perfectly sinless Lips and having the only perfect Ministry that this earth has ever or will ever see- they beat Jesus and they whipped Him to within a inch of His Life, and they spit on Him and laughed at Him, and they nailed this Man to a tree to destroy Him. All because of Who he is and What He said.

So I tell you this morning, dear friends, as you enter this wonderful season of celebrating the Birth of Jesus Christ- that this Man was born to die. That is the only reason why Jesus was born- was so that He might die the most excruciating and agonizing death of any man, and that He might die with all of our sins placed upon Him so that we might be rescued from the Justice of God against us.

We are vile sinners- you and me are, and we sin against a holy and righteous God every day of our lives, and we have worked hard to earn God's Wrath against us, and the penalty for our sins is eternal damnation. That is why Jesus came to steal us away from satan and to deliver us into God's Hands, and yet there was great gulf between us and that great gulf was our sins.

And the only way that God could do that was to take on human flesh and live this life with us for 33-1/2 years so that He might be tempted in all points like us- only without sinning.

You see very high priest had to live among the people that he ministered to. But this High Priest named Jesus was different from any other high priest who ever lived. All the other high priests interceded to God on behalf of the people, but before they could intercede for one single person- they first had to slay an animal and intercede for themselves. Now why is this? Because all men are sinners, even high priests. So, before the Levitical high priests could intercede on behalf of the people- they had to settle their sin debt with God first.

But this High Priest named Jesus did not need to slay an animal first for His Own sins because Jesus was perfectly sinless, and, therefore, Jesus is a *superior* High Priest who can bring us to God on His behalf.

But, we also have to remember that not only is Jesus our superior High Priest- He is also our Sacrifice. You see, every Levitical high priest had to take an animal and slay him so that God's Wrath would be abated until the next sacrifice. Animal sacrifices could not and did not forgive one single sin- they only held back God's Wrath until the next animal could be slain- and that is why the Jews had to sacrifice over and over and over again for centuries.

But this man named Jesus, as a spotless Lamb, was not only a superior High Priest- but he was also a superior Sacrifice because His sinlessness made Him the perfect payment for sins. And we rejoice that Jesus took our sins and paid our sin debt with God because He was our perfect Sacrifice.

But we need to remember that as our Sacrifice- Jesus was not born to be worshipped or adored or loved or received. As our scapegoat- Jesus was born to be rejected and despised and hated and scorned and laughed at and killed. As our risen Lord- we do adore and worship and love and obey Him- but as our Sacrifice- Jesus had to be hated and destroyed and His Blood had to be shed.

And that is why the prophet Isaiah gives us a very startling and even offensive picture of this Jesus Who was our Sacrifice- so let's turn and read **Isaiah 53** together.

**1 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?**

**2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.**

**3 He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.**

**4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.**

**6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.**



**7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth;  
Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its  
shearers, So He did not open His mouth.**

**8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation,  
who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the  
transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?**

**9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His  
death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His  
mouth.**

**10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would  
render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong  
*His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.**

**11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His  
knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will  
bear their iniquities.**

**12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the  
booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was  
numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And  
interceded for the transgressors.**

So all these verses that talk about how Jesus is rejected and despised, and is not beautiful, and that it pleased the Lord to bruise Him have to do with Jesus being our perfect Sacrifice- and that should humble us and break the staff of our pride.

Now, the word that Peter used in **Luke 5:5** when he said Master refers to anybody who's in authority, and Luke uses it seven times throughout his Gospel Account. So at this time- to Peter- Jesus was certainly more than a Teacher- the non-followers called Jesus "rabbi", or "teacher", and the followers call Him "Master". But Jesus was at this time- before Peter's conversion- was not Deity. And that is why Jesus performed this miracle here- to save Peter's soul.

So as a master but not as a Savior- Peter can't resist reminding Jesus that He was only a carpenter while Peter was a very experienced fisherman. That is why Peter said in verse 5:

**... we worked hard all night and caught nothing...**

Peter is saying here that we've got to get all this crew together, and we've got to get all this tackle together, and we've got to get the nets we've been washing and we've got to get them back into the boat, and then get the boats back out into the water, and this is going to take a lot of work. And we have already fished all night long and we caught absolutely nothing. And I'm telling you based on my many years of experience with fishing that the fish just aren't there. We've been out there all night and they're just not there.

And now You want me to go right back out there again? And You want me to go to all this work and all this effort and get out there and spread this thing out and go through all this all over again, and it's going to all be pointless. So Peter is real frustrated here because what's the point of all this?

Now as I said last week, by this time it's noon and the sun is burning down on the lake and the fish are way down deep and there just aren't any fish to catch.

But you know, this man who had just instantly healed your mother-in-law and made your wife happy- you might reluctantly be willing to listen just a little bit.

But we also have to acknowledge that there is something else in play here. Fishing was not some past time to Peter- this was how he made his living. So this was business to Peter and he had fished all night and he caught nothing, but he still had to pay all those men for their time- and he still had to cover the overhead of taking these large boats out all night, even though he didn't make any money- so part of the reason why Peter was even listening to Jesus at all here is that Peter thought in the back of his mind that since Jesus had miraculously healed his mother-in-law- maybe Jesus wanted to bless him a little bit financially. So there is the selfish motive here going on too.

So with all of this going through his mind- as these rebellious, angry, frustrated, blasphemous words came out of Peter's mouth- he realized how he sounded and he then said,

**... but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets.**

What Peter didn't realize is that Jesus was doing something far greater here than anything Peter could imagine. This is far more important than Jesus just showing off, far more important than Jesus

blessing Peter with so much fish- he could franchise his catfish restaurants or live off his interest.

This miracle is going to completely transform Peter so that Peter no longer called Jesus simply Master- but so that he called Him Lord and Savior. Now look at verse 6:

**When they had done this, they enclosed a great quantity of fish, and their nets began to break;**

You know why they caught these fish? Because Jesus either knew where the fish were because he is Omniscient or else Jesus simply created the fish because He is Omnipotent. Either way- this is a big deal

Peter says, "There's no fish there." And Jesus said, "Put the net down." Jesus knew where the fish were because if Jesus knows every sparrow's hop- then He knows where all His fish are. He knew where they were; He knew exactly where they were. One time in **Matthew 17** they needed to pay their taxes and Peter was falling apart because the IRS was auditing him all the way back to the Garden of Eden, and Jesus, matter of factly, told Peter

*"Go down there, put your hook in the water and pull out the fish and the fish has a coin in his mouth that will pay for both of us."*

Jesus guaranteed Peter a catch and guaranteed Peter that this particular fish would have a coin in his mouth and that this coin would be enough to pay both Peter and Jesus' taxes.

And then there is **John 21** where Peter was fishing after he had backslid after the Resurrection, and he had walked away from ministry and returned to fishing because he was disillusioned over why Jesus had to die and things had not worked out the way Peter thought they should.

And Peter was sitting in the boat naked as a jay bird- fishing again- and once again he couldn't catch anything. And Jesus was on the shore and He said,

*"Try the right side of the boat."*

And they did and they couldn't even get all the fish in. And Peter said, "*It's the Lord*", and he jumped into the water and swam to the shore- and with every stroke of his hand in that water Peter was repenting and coming back to Jesus.

But how did Jesus know where the fish were? Because, He is God. And He always knows where everything is because He knows everything that there is to know. There are no limits on His knowledge except those which He imposed upon Himself in His condescension and humiliation.

But Jesus is God, and He's omniscient as God and He knows everything.

**Psalms 139** lays out the Omniscience of God in the most magnificent language, just a couple of verses will suffice.

- 1 O LORD, You have searched me and known *me*.**
- 2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.**
- 3 You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways.**
- 4 Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all.**
- 5 You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.**
- 6 *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.**

So this is God, my friends. Jesus knew where all the fish were. He knew what men can't know because He possessed Divine knowledge. And so you have here in Luke 5- Jesus manifesting all the very attributes and qualities of God Almighty while in a human Body.

You have Divine Truth and Divine Knowledge. And next week, Lord willing- we're going to see how Omniscience- Divine Knowledge blends into Divine Power or Omnipotence.

So where do you go to find the quest for the historical Jesus? The Scriptures. If you want to know the real Jesus, where do you go? You go to the Gospels. And here you have Jesus being fully revealed. And as I said at the very beginning of this series- if all you had was these few verses here in **Luke 5**- you would have to face the fact that what you have here is Someone who speaks the very Words of God, and Someone Who knows what only God knows.

The best of fishermen, the most professional, the most experienced fishermen- the most astute fishermen in their own area at their own lake on their own shore with their own boat and their own equipment didn't know what Jesus knew cause He knows everything. This is God in human flesh, the Redeemer, the Lord, Savior of sinners.

Let's come and pray.

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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.