

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** 59- The Divinity of Jesus- Part 4

December 13, 2009

Luke 5:1-11

Now, as we continue our journey through the Gospel of Luke- we need to remember that the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, present the Person of Jesus Christ. And they present Him indisputably as God in human flesh- and that's what the story of Christmas is all about- it is God Almighty inserting Himself into His Own Creation and taking on human flesh- and being born of a virgin. And this had never happened before and has never happened since and will never happen again, and this event is so powerful and it is so great and it is so rare and it is so miraculous and so important that it is, in fact, the greatest and most important miracle that God ever did, and the Christian Church had to invent a word to describe this event and they called it- The Incarnation.

And that is the only reason why we celebrate Christmas- and it is the reason why we take time to marvel and wonder at the Owner and Creator of the Universe- Who has no Body and Who is invisible and Who cannot be contained in all the vastness of the Universe, God wrapping Himself in human flesh and limiting Himself in the body of a little baby.

And this is the central Message of all four of the Gospels, and it is central Truth of the Christian Church, and it is the central Confession of all those who are genuinely saved throughout all time- that Jesus is God. And we need to understand that this Great Truth and this Great Confession is under assault in our day, and it is being marginalized and minimized, and we need to make no mistake about this, dear friends- that past all the reasons and all the excuses- the war against Christmas in this country is being waged by people who hate God, and it is being

carried out by people who do not want to be confronted with their own sinfulness and their own need to be delivered from God's Wrath against their sins, and these people do not want to acknowledge their own need for a Savior, and their vocal and oftentimes bitter opposition of celebrating the birth of Jesus is directly attached to this central Truth, and that is why now, more than ever- we need to be very vocal and very strong and very forthright and utterly unashamed in our confession that Jesus Christ was more than a good Man, He was more than a fine Example, Jesus was much more than a Teacher, and more than a Rabbi, and more than a Community Organizer. Jesus was more than a Feeder of hungry people, He was more than a Healer of sick bodies, and He was more than a Man Who taught about Love and Forgiveness.

Jesus was superior to every Prophet who ever lived, and Angels bow down to worship Him, Cherubims serve Him, and Seraphims cry out before Him- "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

And we need to know that Jesus was not godly. I said Jesus was not godly. No, we mortals can be somewhat godly at times because to be godly means to be "like" God, and there are times that even we sinners are *like* God to some extent. But it is important to distinguish Jesus from what we are, and Jesus was not *like* God at all- He didn't periodically by times manifest some godly fruit like we do- No, Jesus is God. The Apostle John wrote this in **John 1:1-5, 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.

5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

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.

You see the Bible reveals in **John 4** that God the Father has no Body and is a pure Spirit. So when you take God the Father and you drape Him with a human body- you have God the Son- the fleshly body and the attributes and limitations that go along with that fleshly body

and the distinct personalities and roles that each play are the only distinctions between God the Father and God the Son.

There is only one true and living God, and that one true living God is One in Essence and yet is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

So the central theme of Christianity is that Jesus was God in human flesh; Jesus was the Almighty wrapped in a body. Jesus was Yahweh made Man. Jesus was fully God and fully Man in the same Body at the same time without conflict or contradiction- and that mystery alone should take our breath away and make every knee on this earth bow down to Him, and that wonder alone should make every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and that Glory alone should silence every voice and cause our mouths to hang open in wonder and cause our knees to be weak and cause our hands to tremble and cause us to purpose in our hearts, and to love this Jesus and serve Him all the days of our lives, and it is because Jesus is just this magnificent and just this glorious and just this amazing and just this beautiful and majestic that makes our sacrifice worth it, and it makes whatever we have to go through to be worth it, and it makes whatever price we have to pay to honor Him and bring Glory to His great Name to be worth it, and it is the fact that Jesus is God that causes each one of us and all the angels in Heaven and every demon in hell to fall down before Him and worship Him as King and Lord and Master and Sovereign and Savior forever and ever!

So the key Doctrine in our Faith, the primary Truth around which everything else revolves is that Jesus is God- He is fully Deity: He is Divine and is the Creator God, the Sustainer of the universe, and the Consummator Who will bring all things ultimately to their final end and to His eternal Glory.

Jesus the Man was also Jesus God. And that emphasis is made in all four Gospels repeatedly, and so we should make it repeatedly ourselves. In fact, you could almost pick any chapter of **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**, and you would find manifestation in the historical accounts of these writers of Jesus' Deity. And that is certainly the case here in the opening eleven verses of **Luke 5**.

And as we have discovered over the last three weeks- this is a wonderfully simple account. And it is a wonderfully uncomplicated historical record about fishing. But though it is a very simple and

uncomplicated account- it is profound and deep beyond our reason. This passage takes us beyond where our minds can even go because herein is God Himself revealed in Christ.

So just how do we know that Jesus is God? Because He manifests all the Divine Characteristics of God, and we don't. And so we know Jesus is God because His Attributes are the very same Attributes that belong only to God. And as we have been going over these last three weeks- there are five distinct Characteristics of God's Own Divine and Eternal Nature that Luke tells us are seen in Jesus in these eleven verses:

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

If you are to define God Biblically- the one true and living God is the Source of all Truth. So you would define both God the Father and Jesus as being what is called Omniscient- and that is that He knows everything there is to know, and there is nothing that exists in the material or the spiritual realm that Jesus doesn't know fully.

And not only that, not only is Jesus Omniscient- but He is also Omnipotent. That is He has all Power, and when I say all Power I mean that He has *infinite* Power- that His Power is only limited by His Own holy Character and Nature.

And it is also true of God that He is holy- He is perfectly holy and distinct and separate and different from anything and everything that He made. God is unique and an exclusive- there is no one and nothing like unto Him. God is also without any flaws or errors whatsoever. So God has never thought or said or done or even imagined anything that is wrong or that has the hint of being in any way clouded or sinful.

That is God. God is Truth. God is infinite Knowledge. God is infinite Power. God is infinite Holiness. And another Characteristic of God which matters a lot to us is that God is Merciful, and His Mercy is great and it is infinite. There is no limit to God's Mercy. And when His Mercy is dispensed- it is not in any sense diminished.

And because God is Sovereign- God Alone is the sole Arbiter of that Mercy. In other words- part of God being Sovereign is that God Alone chooses who to give that great Mercy to and who to give Justice to. All do not receive Mercy in equal portions- the Bible reveals very clearly that some unworthy sinners receive God's Wrath while other unworthy sinners receive God's Mercy, and we do not have any say so as to who gets Mercy and who gets Wrath- that is God's Business.

Please turn with me to **Romans 9** and cast your eyes on the inspired inerrant and infallible Word of God beginning in verse 9.

Romans 9:9 says:

9 For this is the word of promise: “AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON.”

10 And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac;

11 for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God’s purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

12 it was said to her, “THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.”

13 Just as it is written, “JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.”

14 What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be!

15 For He says to Moses, “I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION.”

16 So then it *does not depend* on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH.”

18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”

20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it?

- 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?**
- 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?**
- 23 And *He did so* to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,**
- 24 *even us*, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.**
- 25 As He says also in Hosea, “I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, ‘MY PEOPLE,’ AND HER WHO WAS NOT BELOVED, ‘BELOVED.’”**
- 26 “AND IT SHALL BE THAT IN THE PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, ‘YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,’ THERE THEY SHALL BE CALLED SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.”**
- 27 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, “THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED;**
- 28 FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY.”**
- 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, “UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOOTH HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH.”**
- 30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith;**
- 31 but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law.**
- 32 Why? Because *they did not pursue it* by faith, but as though *it were* by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,**
- 33 just as it is written, “BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”**

And make no mistake about it, dear friends- there will be no outstanding debt of sin at the last day. Every single debt of sin will either be reconciled on the Cross in Mercy or it will be reconciled in Hell in God's infinite Justice- but every account will be settled on that day.

Now the people living in Palestine at the time of Jesus knew about God. They knew that God was the God of Truth because He's called that in the Old Testament. They knew that He was the God of Knowledge, and that all Knowledge came from God, and God was the great Revealer

of all knowledge. They also knew that there wasn't anything that God didn't know. They knew that God knew everything from the beginning to the end.

They also knew that God was all Powerful. They knew that His Power was infinite- that He was El Shaddai, the Almighty God. And they knew that God was holy, holy, holy, and repeatedly in Leviticus God says, "*I am holy, I am holy, I am holy,*" meaning separated from sin.

And they also knew that God was Merciful. They knew that God had revealed Himself to Moses in **Exodus 33**, and when Moses said that he wanted to see God- God said, "*I'm going to show you who I am,*" and then He displayed His Mercy and His Compassion. So the Jews of the first century all knew that the one, true, living God- the Creator God, the God of Israel was a God of Truth, a God of infinite Knowledge, infinite Power, infinite Holiness and infinite Mercy. That is how they knew God the Father to be.

And so when Jesus came- if Jesus was going to convince them that He was God- He had to manifest all five of these Divine Attributes that are at the very heart of Who God is.

So God is absolute Truth, and He is the Source of all that is true and cannot lie. And that is essential because the only way we're going to know Truth is if God reveals it to us. And all that He has revealed is, in fact, Truth, and all that contradicts it is deception.

And it is also critical to the Nature of God that He knows everything. If He doesn't know everything then He's not in control of everything. And if God is the Sovereign of the universe Who fulfills His Purpose in everything that occurs in the universe- then He has to know all of the elements that make up that universe materially and spiritually.

It is also critical that God be the God of infinite Power or He can't control everything. It's not a matter of *knowing* everything only to be frustrated because you can't do anything about what is happening- that is not a Characteristic of being Sovereign. No, Sovereignty by definition means that God can control everything that He knows. And it is also critical that God be absolutely and perfectly holy and without sin, or He cannot be the Redeemer of sinners, and it obviously is true that He must be a God of Mercy in order to overlook our iniquities and give us Salvation in spite of our sin.

So these are not just *minor* elements of the Nature of God- no, these are at the very heart of Who God is. In fact, if I were to think a long time and try to come up with a list that would be define God, I couldn't come up with a better list than these five:

1. Truth
2. Knowledge
3. Power
4. Holiness
5. Mercy

These five elements mark the God of the Bible. This is Who God is. And when you read the Psalms and you read through the Old Testament and you read the Law and you read the books of history and the books of poetry, you're going to find God revealed in these terms. And the Jewish people knew all this.

And the disciples knew it because they were all part of the synagogue crowd. And they had been raised in the synagogue- raised in Judaism. And they had been instructed by the Old Testament their whole lives, and they knew God and they knew His Attributes. And so when Jesus came- they saw Jesus demonstrate all those very same Attributes that they knew belonged only to God- and so they were convinced that Jesus was God.

Now last time we looked at the first two Attributes that manifest themselves here in **Luke 5**, and Lord willing- we will look at the other three today.

Now, here in this passage- it was early in the day around the lake of Gennesaret- which is called the Sea of Galilee. But it isn't a real "sea", but a lake. And Jesus had managed to collect around Him a very massive crowd- numbering in the thousands, if not the tens of thousands. And they were all pressing around Him, verse 1 says, as He was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. In fact, the crowd was putting so much pressure on Him, obviously attracted not only by His teaching but by the fact that He had been healing everybody of every disease that was brought to Him, as it tells us back in **Luke 4:40**. And Jesus had also been casting demons out of people who were beleaguered by demon possession, many demons were coming out crying and saying, "*You are the Son of God,*" as **Luke 4:41** says.

So His miracle power over the kingdom of darkness, His miracle power over the kingdom of disease, we could say, had drawn a tremendous crowd. And He was in the process of banishing disease from Palestine, and now from Galilee at first here in the north. And there would be more to come. He was drawing great crowds and they were pressing against Him as He moved back toward the water to get away from the press, and He realized that the only way He would be able to teach them was if He got in a boat. Verse 2 says He saw two boats lying at the edge of the lake. The fishermen had left them, apparently one of them belonged to Peter, and the other one belonged to perhaps James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and the two groups were partners in fishing, so both of their boats were pulled up, at least the bow of the boat was pulled up onto the shore because the fishing had gone on during the night, as it typically did, and this was daytime and they were mending their nets. It tells us that in verse 2.

So, in verse 3- Jesus got into one of the boats, the one that belonged to Simon, or Peter, and asked him to put out a little way from the land. And Jesus sat down and began teaching the multitudes from the boat. And I went into this in great detail last time that Teaching God's Word is what was primary all throughout Jesus' ministry. It was fine to do miracles, but miracles wouldn't bring anyone into the Kingdom of God. It was fine to cast out demons, but being divested of demons wouldn't bring one soul into the Kingdom of God. The one single way that God has chosen for lost people to be saved is by and through the right and full preaching of God's Word. So it is the knowledge of the Gospel- the knowledge of Divine Truth that saves the souls of men.

And so the primary ministry of Jesus was a ministry of teaching. And when He taught, and here's the key phrase, go back to verse 1, it says,

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;

Now this tells us that Jesus is the Source of Divine Truth. Literally, in the Greek- this verse says that the people were listening to the *Word that comes from God*. So Jesus spoke the Word of God. In other words- when Jesus opened His mouth and spoke- God spoke. And

we talked about that at some length last time, how that Jesus spoke the Word that comes directly from God because He is God.

Now the second thing we noted last time about Jesus that matches up with the Character of God is Divine Knowledge which is a three dollar word called "Omniscience". And the account in verses 4 through 6 points this out. After He finished using Peter's boat to speak, and He wanted to demonstrate Who He was- "He said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.'" He says...Let's go fishing, Simon.

Now as I told you last time- you don't go fishing in the daytime in that hot place where the sun burns on the top of the water. The fish go down very, very deep, and below the capability of the nets and away from the shore, and that's not the time you want to fish. These men all fished at night.

So Peter answered and said in verse 5,

... Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing, but I will do as You say *and* let down the nets."

Now what Peter is saying here is, "*Lord, there aren't any fish out there, we've been there. There's no point in fishing in the daytime, first of all, and secondly, there's no point in fishing here because we fished all night and the fish aren't here.*" And he just couldn't resist suggesting that reality to the Lord. But Peter did it in a kind way because he says immediately after that,

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

But then a very amazing thing happened in verse 6- read with me:

Luke 5:6&7

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

7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

And the point that I made last time is that Jesus was Omniscient and He knew where the fish were. And this is just flat out shocking.

Jesus has supernatural knowledge and He knows what nobody else knows- not even seasoned fishermen. And since these men all knew that God alone was Omniscient- they knew that this Man standing among them was God.

This is very characteristic of Jesus on a number of occasions. For example- in the Gospel of Mark- John Mark wants us to know that Jesus has the Knowledge that only God has. And in **Mark 14:13**- it was time for the Passover and Jesus wanted to have a place to celebrate the Passover because there were pilgrims in Jerusalem and they needed to rent a room. And so He sent His disciples, two of them, into Jerusalem and He said this to them, verse 13,

... Go into the city, and a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him.

Now this is a man that Jesus had never met. This is a man Jesus had never seen. But He says you're going to see a man with a pitcher of water- follow him. Don't talk to him- just follow him, and wherever he enters go in and say to the owner of the house,

Mark 14:14b&15

14 ... The Teacher says, "Where is My guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?"

15 And he himself will show you a large upper room furnished *and* ready; prepare for us there."

So Jesus knew about this house. And He knew that it had a proper room for them to have the Passover. And He also knew about a man who would be going to that house with a pitcher that he was carrying, and He said to the disciples, "*Just go into town, when you see the man with the pitcher, follow him and everything else will fall into place.*"

Now this is supernatural Divine Knowledge. Jesus knows about a man and He knows about a place that He's never even seen.

Now over in chapter 2 of **John**, verse 24 it says:

John 2:24&25

24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,

25 and because He did not need anyone to testify concerning man, for He Himself knew what was in man.

Jesus never needed any additional information about people because He was Omniscient and He already knew what they were like. He knew what was in their mind and he knew what was in their heart because He knew and knows everything. Nobody is a mystery to God. God understands everybody completely. Nobody is hidden from the Eyes of Him with whom we have to do- but all things are naked and open. God knows everything about you. He knows your hidden sins, He knows your very thoughts- you cannot hide from God.

And the fact that people go to great lengths to hide from God only shows you how sinful we really are. How sinful and how dumb. How do you plan to hide your sins from God? How do you plan on God not knowing everything about you? Wait till it's dark? Go into a room by yourself and lock the door? Nathaniel did something under the fig tree and he didn't think anybody knew or that anybody saw Him. But Jesus saw everything, and when He told Nathaniel that He had seen him under that fig tree- Nathaniel responded by saying,

John 1:49

... Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel.

God is Omniscient, and since Jesus is God- Jesus is Omniscient. I am not Omniscient, however, and you can fool me all day long. You can lie to me and use me and take advantage of me. But nobody ever has ever in any way one time taken advantage of God.

Now over in **John 6:64**, it says:

But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would betray Him.

He always knew who wouldn't believe. From the beginning He knew who wouldn't believe. And Jesus knows today who won't believe.

He also knew who it was that would betray Him. He knew who Judas was and He knew Judas would never really believe and He knew Judas would betray Him even though the other disciples didn't know it, even the night of the betrayal, and when it was announced that one of them would betray Him, they were saying, "Is it I? Is it I? Is it I? Is it I?"

But Jesus wasn't confused because he is Omniscient. Jesus always knew who would betray Him. Jesus always knew from the very beginning who would not believe in Him because He knows everything there is to be known.

Now over in **John 13**- after Peter begins to tell Jesus how much he loves Him and how he will always defend Him and that he would never betray Him- Jesus demonstrates His total Omniscience when He tells Peter in verse **38**:

... Will you lay down your life for Me? Truly, truly, I say to you, a rooster will not crow until you deny Me three times.

Now turn over to **John 16:30**- where it says,

30 Now we know that You know all things, and have no need for anyone to question You; by this we believe that You came from God."

31 Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe?"

32 Behold, an hour is coming, and has *already* come, for you to be scattered, each to his own *home*, and to leave Me alone; and *yet* I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

33 These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

Now there were times when Jesus imposed some limitations on Himself, like the time of **Mark 11** when He went to look at a fig tree to see if it had any fruit. And there was another time recorded in **Luke 8** where there is someone who touches Him and He says, "**Who touched Me?**" And that is a very human response. And you see Jesus in His full Humanity going to see if there's fruit on a tree and turning around to see who it was who touched Him.

And those are the rare occasions when you see His full Humanness unaided for at least a moment by His full Deity. And then

that remarkable time in **Matthew 24:36** when talking about His Second Coming He said,

But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

So we see that at this point- Jesus had willfully restricted His Omniscience and had set it aside- so He doesn't know. And this is called the Doctrine of the Subjugation, or the Doctrine of the Humiliation of Jesus. As Man- Jesus sets aside His Own Divinity in such a way that He is fully submitted to the Will and Direction of His Father, and He sets aside His Divinity in such a way that 24-hours a day- Jesus is fully being led by God's Spirit and subject to God's Desires and not His Own.

And this is great mystery that has confounded people for thousands of years. And many ungodly cults have sprung up like the Jehovah's Witnesses and like Gnosticism and like Mormonism which overly emphasize Jesus' Humanity over His full Divinity, and that is always a mistake.

We must remember when talking about Jesus that Jesus is the most unique Person Who ever lived. Nobody has ever been like Jesus and nobody will ever be like Jesus. He was an exclusive. Jesus was fully God and fully Man in the same Body at the same time without conflict or contradiction, and our puny finite minds cannot grasp the wonder of that. And so we are left with periodic glimpses all throughout the Gospels which show us both His full Deity and His full Humanity. And these glimpses are never contradictory or exclusionary- they do not cancel each other out because Jesus was both God and Man.

Now back in **Luke 5**- Peter is so shocked by the realization that Jesus knows what nobody else knows and that He knows where the fish are. Indeed, Jesus knows where all His creatures are at all times. And as I told you last week- Jesus knows every sparrow that hops along the ground because there isn't anything that exists in the material or the immaterial world that Jesus doesn't know.

It's not that He has to learn anything or discover anything. He knows it because He created it and He ordains it to happen. And He knows what hasn't even come to pass. Jesus is not in the process- as some liberal theologians are telling us now- of becoming something-

He's not searching for any information- God acquires no new information about anything. There's no new information for God to acquire. The God of the Bible knows everything that is happening right now and everything that has happened and everything that will happen at some point in the future. And this is also true of Christ. And so we see Jesus as being fully God right here in this passage by virtue of His Divine Knowledge.

Okay, now the third point is that Jesus' Omniscience blends into His Omnipotence. It's one thing to know where the fish are, it's another thing to have the power to gather them there. And this is what stuns us in this story because we read in Luke 5:6:

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

7 so they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them. And they came and filled both of the boats, so that they began to sink.

So these huge half mile long nets that were strung between two boats began to shred with the weight of this enormous catch of fish. I mean, typically fishermen who fished in that area knew what the normal catch would be, maybe what a good catch would be, maybe what a great catch would be, and they had designed nets that would be able to handle with their time-tested cords, the kind of catch that you would get in the sea of Galilee.

But nothing like this had ever happened before. Nobody had ever caught these many fish before. So these men were seeing an expression of Divine Power because there's no explanation for the volume of fish, other than the fact that Jesus not only knows where they are, but He has commanded an enormous number of fish, way beyond any imaginable school of fish that would ever be swimming together into this one place, and now Peter knows without any doubt that he's dealing with the Creator of the Universe.

In fact, in verse 9- we read that the catch was so massive that amazement had seized everybody. Everybody sees Peter and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken. And the term here for amazement is just that. I mean, it's a term that simply means shock. They were absolutely shocked by what they saw. It's a

term that's used a couple of times back in chapter 4. They were amazed at His teaching. They never heard anybody teach the way He taught. And in **Luke 4:36**- they were amazed at His confrontation of the demon. And now they're amazed at His Power expressed over Nature.

Now it tells us back in verse 6 that the nets began to break and in order to try to deal with what they had on hand- they signaled to their partners in the other boat. Now remember in verse 2 that we saw that the other boat was sitting on the edge of the lake and probably belonged to James and John who jumped into their boat since they were partners with Peter in the fishing business, and they went out to try to give Peter some help.

Now typically- they had one large boat and the boat that took the net to the other extremity would typically be a smaller boat for the purpose of simply taking the net over there and then bringing it back.

But there wasn't going to be a large capacity in that smaller boat to carry the tremendous catch and so they called for their partners to put their boat in the water, get out there as fast as they could and help them with this massive catch. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat for them to come and help them, and they came.

And they got alongside Peter's boat and they began to pull this huge net in and the net is snapping and popping and somehow with the use of smaller nets and the winches and whatever other means they would use- they started pulling those fish out of that great net and putting them in the hold of the boat.

And it says in verse 7 that they filled both of the boats so that the boats began to sink. Now folks- this is just beyond anything they had ever experienced. As the fish were hoisted into the hold and the weight of the fish began to push the boat under the water so that now the lake is lapping over the edge of the boat. And the water begins to come in which, of course, sets the crew in motion to be throwing it back out and trying to make sure that they turned the boat against the waves, or whatever you have to do to keep them from lapping across the edges and sinking the boat.

And somehow they managed to cope with that problem, but the point is the catch is so massive that it literally goes beyond anything they have ever anticipated because their nets can't contain it and their boats can't hold it. So this is just without any human explanation.

Now what I want you to see is that not only did Jesus know the location of the fish, but He commanded the fish to be exactly where He wanted them to be, and He commanded them in massive numbers.

Now Peter and James and John and their companions and the folks that were there- they all knew the Old Testament. And they knew that God is the Creator, and that God is also the Controller and Sustainer of His Creation. And these men all knew that **Isaiah 50:2** had said,

Why was there no man when I came? When I called, why was there none to answer? Is My hand so short that it cannot ransom? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, I dry up the sea with My rebuke, I make the rivers a wilderness; Their fish stink for lack of water And die of thirst.

They knew that if God wanted to- He could dry up a lake; He could dry up the sea; He could have all the fish die and begin to stink. They all knew that. And they also knew what Daniel had said that God was the One Who did whatever He wanted to do in the kingdoms of men, and that God was the ultimate Sovereign over all sovereigns.

Now please turn with me to **Daniel 4**. As you know- **Daniel 4** is the story of when the powerful Babylonian King- Nebuchadnezzar got too uppity, and God caused him to lose his mind and he went out into the field like an animal and ate grass and crawled along the ground and then he came to his senses, and I want you to read with me beginning in verse 34:

34 But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom endures from generation to generation.

35 “All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

36 At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles

began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.”

These men all knew that in **Nehemiah 9:6** the Word of God says,

You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.

And they knew that **Psalm 62:11** said,

... power belongs to God.

Now I've been telling you that I have begun to study in Genesis in preparation of teaching through that Book as soon as we finish with Romans on Sunday night, and I've been looking a little bit into the power that's contained in the universe because people say, *"Well, you know, certainly God couldn't have created the entire universe in six days, it takes a long evolutionary cycle of billions of years to produce this."* And they say that because they don't believe the Bible- one. And two- they simply do not understand the Power of God. God has so much Power that creating this universe really was a small thing for Him. He literally spoke it into existence instantaneously and sustains it by the same Power and His Power is never diminished.

But over the years- scientists have discovered some pretty amazing things. And I was listening to a tape by an Australian scientist that really was in terms of terminology and breadth and depth a little more than I wanted to deal with, but I did the best as a layman to sort it out. And essentially what the tape was saying is if you could take a molecule and create a vacuum in that molecule, that is to say divest that molecule of any matter whatsoever, of any chemical compound, no H, no O, no air, no nothing, and you had just a pure vacuum of space, they have done this, scientists can do this creating one molecule with nothing in it but a vacuum, and there is nothing there but empty space.

And when they do that they discover a most amazing thing. Moving through that vacuum with nothing in it that is material are short waves and long waves of energy.

Well what is that? That's why Einstein died in discouragement because he got all the way down to that and couldn't give it a chemical name and couldn't identify where it came from and what sustained it. And this energy is the primary source of Power. And what is it? It's the very Energy of God. And this scientist went on to say, that there's enough energy and enough power in those waves, and they're undiminished in their power that you could take the waves alone that are in one molecule and you could light all the stars in the universe for ten thousand years. This power is absolutely staggering.

And we know something about the power because if you split one small atom- you can set loose a nuclear holocaust that ultimately without control can destroy an entire nation.

So God has great unimaginable Power. And there is power at a level in the universe that demonstrates that it has to come from some source other than what can be understood by man's scientific enterprises. And this is the Power of God. And if God can do all of that- it's really no problem for Him to give a little poke of energy to the rear end of a fish to make sure it ends up in Peter's net.

And Peter knew this. He knew exactly what he was dealing with. He was dealing with One Who was the Source of all Truth- the One Who knew everything that could be known, and the One Who had all Power. Peter was dealing with Truth, Omniscience, and Omnipotence here.

And that meant, fourthly, that Peter was also in the very Face of Divine Holiness because Peter knew that the God of Truth, and the God of Omniscience, and the God of Omnipotence is also the God of Holiness. And he knew that God is not only Holy- but that God is "holy, holy, holy". He knew that. And he knew now that Jesus is God and this is clearly bursting on his mind.

Now in verse 8 when Simon Peter saw this Divine Display- when he saw this Omniscience and this Omnipotence in action along with the message of the Words of God that had come- he knew in Whose Presence he stood. And so look at how Peter reacted to all that Jesus was doing here. Look at **Luke 5:8&9:**

8 But when Simon Peter saw *that*, he fell down at Jesus' feet, saying, "Go away from me Lord, for I am a sinful man!"

9 For amazement had seized him and all his companions because of the catch of fish which they had taken;

Divine Omniscience and Divine Omnipotence and Divine Holiness all meeting together with the Words of God is now bringing to pass the very thing that God wanted all along- to humble Peter and to break him and to cause Peter to come to a place of utter desperation and despair because all of these great manifestations of God's Glory through Jesus here didn't excite Peter; they didn't make Peter scream and shout and dance all over the place. They didn't make Peter laugh uncontrollably or have gold dust in his hair or speak in tongues. No, this demonstration of the very Power and Glory of God right here in Peter's face brought about deep and powerful and profound conviction of sin in Peter's life so that Peter realizes that he is lost, and he realizes that he is in desperate need of this Man to rescue him from the depth of his filthy sin, and he falls at Jesus' knees and begs Jesus to leave him.

Have you been in God's Presence, dear friends? Have you seen God move all around you? Have you not witnessed God's Omniscience and God's Omnipotence and God's Holiness? Have we not been with Jesus and Peter on this sea shore through this passage? Have you not been amazed at the great catch of fish? Have we not all been in awe of what God can do?

So what does that do to you? Does it make you want to celebrate or does it break you? Does it make you want to take all these fish and sell them so you can live off your interest and be happy and fulfilled, or does it remind you of your great wickedness and motivate you to fall at Jesus?

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.