

Encountering Jesus: Studies in the Gospel of Luke (4-29-18)

RECEIVING JESUS' MISSION

(Luke 5:1-11; 6:12-16; 9:1-6; 10:1-2)

I. JESUS RELEASES HIS MINISTRY

- A. Jesus preaches from a boat on the Sea of Galilee.
- B. Peter obeys Jesus regardless of the lack of catch from the previous night.
- C. Jesus' word: Fear not, from now on you will catch men. They left all and followed Him.

II. THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

- A. Jesus' main message was the Good News of the Kingdom of God
- B. Jesus' was sent on a mission to teach in all the towns and villages.
 1. Jesus' Apostolic Mission: He was sent by the Father to proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

Luke 4:43 but He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because FOR THIS PURPOSE I HAVE BEEN SENT." (c.f. Matt. 9:35)

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; ¹⁹ To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." (Luke 4:18-19; c.f. Isa. 61:1-2)
 2. Jesus gives this mission to His disciples.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:21-22)

 - a. Jesus started with a few. Then He called 12. Then 70. Then the hundreds, then the thousands...
 - b. Luke 6:12-16 Jesus spent the entire night in prayer and then appoints 12 from among His disciples. Their names are listed in pairs: some suggest that these were the teams of 2 that Jesus sent out: Peter and Andrew, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew (also called Nathanael in John 1:45), Matthew (Levi) and Thomas (his name means "twin"), James, son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, Judas, the son of James (also called Thaddaeus in Mark 3:18) and Judas Iscariot.
 3. When this mission is fulfilled, Jesus will return.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matt. 24:14; c.f. Matt. 24:30)

C. Jesus' method for fulfilling His mission was by making disciples (catching men) to do what He does.

1. In the beginning, Jesus modeled for them, then starting here in Luke 6, Jesus assists them, in Luke 9, Jesus sees how they do, then in Luke 10, Jesus launches them out to do the same (the 70).

Luke 10:1-2 After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. ² Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts. 1:8)

D. Jesus' main ministry was preaching, teaching, healing, and casting out demons.

E. Jesus' main call to the church is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all that He has commanded us.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matt. 28:19-20)

1. Grammatically, there is one command (imperative) in the Great Commission: Make disciples. There are three participles: go, baptize, and teach.
2. The success and impact of the advance of the Kingdom of God, the Apostolic ministry of Jesus, is the extent to which we fulfill the Great Commission and make disciples. If we are not making disciples, we are not moving in the full authority of Jesus Christ.

III. APPLICATION

A. Q: How is your growth in Christ? What is God saying to you presently? Discipleship begins at the cross, by joining Jesus on the cross, counting our old life as dead, and opening up to God's power to transform me and cleanse me. We learn through seasons of growth, serving, and learning – through the good and the bad days – staying steady in pursuing Jesus.

B. Q: Have you received personally the mandate to make disciples? We need to confirm our mission. Without it, we are found drifting with no focus. Receive Jesus' Message, Him as the Messenger, and His Mission. Will you allow Jesus to teach you how to catch men?

The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise. (Prov. 11:30)

C. Is fear holding you back from allowing Jesus to use you and to release His ministry through you?