

Congregational Study: Luke's Epiphany

Luke 4:42-44; 5:1-11

Wednesday Class (1/22/24)

Read Luke 4:42-44.

Why do you think the folks in Capernaum were eager for Jesus to stay there?

Why do you suppose Jesus departed from the city and went to a desolate place? Do you think he needed time away from the crowds? If so, why?

When Jesus says, "I **must** preach," what attitude is Jesus expressing about the mission he's carrying out?

Read next Luke 5:1-11.

Up to this point, during this period in which Jesus was traveling from town to town, preaching in the synagogues, he was apparently traveling by himself. Luke seems to be suggesting that now, and henceforth, Jesus takes on disciples, starting with whom?

Why was he crowd so eager to be near Jesus?

Put yourself in Simon's place. If he already knew Jesus, as John's gospel suggests, what might he have been thinking, when Jesus climbs in his boat? If Simon were meeting Jesus for the first time, as Luke's gospel seems to imply, what might Simon have been thinking?

After his teaching lesson was done, Jesus turns his attention to Simon. Why does he seem to zoom in on this one man?

What do you think might have been going on in Simon's mind, when a carpenter's son and religious teacher gave him fishing advice?

Why do you think Simon went along with the request of Jesus? Does the last sentence of v. 5 give a clue?

Did it take some measure of faith on Simon's part to go along with Jesus' directive?

Do you think the miracle was intended as a personal miracle for Simon? Or for Simon and his partners? Or for whatever crowds were still present?

Explain Simon's reaction in v. 8. Why "depart from me?" Why "I am a sinful man?" Why "Lord?" Did he suddenly gain a full, complete comprehension of who Jesus was? Why might someone be afraid to be in the presence of the Lord?

What Simon doesn't realize – and often we forget – is that admitting one's inability and weakness is the best prerequisite for service. Why is that the case?



Jesus first addresses Simon's fear, in v. 10. Is he chiding Simon? Expressing comfort? Offering absolution, indirectly?

Jesus tells Simon, "From now on you will be catching men." Is this a request? Invitation? Command? Prophecy?

Jesus issues a call to Simon to enter into the process of gathering people and rescuing them from the danger of a fallen world. Boats and nets will no longer be his tools. Instead, what will be Simon's tools?

We read in v. 11, "They left everything and followed him." What specifically did they leave behind? If this was you, what arrangements would you think you might have to make? Loose ends tie up? Family responsibilities? Is Luke implying that they ignored all of that? What kind of a step of faith was this, on the part of these first disciples? What do you think could have convinced them to do something so bold and so life-changing?

Does your faith ever seem less monumental than this? Are all disciples of Jesus called to leave their vocations to serve Jesus? Has being a disciple of Jesus changed your priorities in any way?