

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 5

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

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Background

- Lake Gennesaret = Sea of Galilee, which had several varieties of fish.
- The steep lakeshore enables sound to be easily heard far away when a speaker is in a boat.
- Fish go deep during daylight and are closer to the water's surface at night.
- Dragnets were towed between two boats to catch fish. Nets cast from one boat were also used.
- Those whom God calls into his service feel deeply unworthy.
- The Law required a healed leper to make a sacrifice through a priest (Lev.14).
- Large villages could have a scribe to write documents and instruct children.
- Although God did not require fasting, it became a common practice in Judaism and would later be practiced by Christians.

History

- After John baptized Jesus, the voice of God spoke aloud, identifying Jesus as his Son, the Messiah.
- Jesus had read in a synagogue from Isaiah 61:1-2, claiming that he was now fulfilling those predictions.
- The disciples of John had become so numerous, that the Pharisees had taken note of their religious practices.

Themes

- Jesus grows in popularity, and also his enemies increase, by his teaching, preaching, environmental/creation miracles, healing of all kinds of sickness, and expelling evil spirits.
- Very religious men begin to oppose Jesus, as they will continue to do until they have him crucified.
- Jesus' miracles have two purposes: (a) compassion, to meet human needs, and (b) power, to demonstrate his divine authority.

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Jesus calls fishermen to become his disciples²

¹ One day, while many people were crowding around him to hear the message from God, Jesus was standing on the shore at Gennesaret Lake, *which is also called Lake Galilee*. ² He saw two fishing boats at the lake's edge/beach. The fishermen had gone out from their boats and were washing their fishing nets on the shore. One boat belonged to Simon. ³ Jesus got in that boat and asked Simon, "Please push the boat a little way from the shore, so that I can speak to the crowd more easily."³ Jesus sat in the boat and taught the people who were on the shore.

⁴ After he finished speaking to them, he said to Simon, "Take the boat out to where the water is deep. Then let your nets down into the water to catch some fish!" ⁵ Simon replied, "Master, we(exc) worked hard all night, but we did not catch any fish. But because you(sg) tell me to do so, I will let down the nets." ⁶ When Peter and the men with him had done so, they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking.⁷ So they motioned to their partners in the other boat to come help them. When they came, they all filled both boats with fish from the net. The boats had so many fish that they began to sink.

⁸ Simon, whose other name was Peter, felt ashamed to be so near to someone⁴ who obviously had God's power. So, *after they came back to land*, Peter kneeled down before Jesus and said *to him*, "Sir, you (*a holy man*) should go away from me, because I am a sinful man!" ⁹ Simon and all the men who were with him were amazed at how many fish they had taken/caught. ¹⁰ Zebedee's sons, James and John, who were Simon's partners, were among those who were amazed.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid! Until today, you^(sg) have been gathering fish, but from now on, you will gather people *who will become my disciples*." ¹¹ So after they brought the boats to shore, Peter, James, and John left everything - *their fishing boat and business* - and went with Jesus to *become his disciples*.

Jesus heals people who have serious diseases⁵

¹² One day, while Jesus was in a city in Galilee district, there was a man there who had leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground before him. Wanting Jesus to heal him, the man pleaded with him, "Lord/Sir, please heal me, because you are able to heal me if you are willing to do so!" ¹³ Then Jesus, *disregarding the religious law that forbade people to touch lepers*, reached out his hand and touched the man. Jesus said, "I am willing to heal you; and I heal you now!" Immediately the man was healed. *He was no longer a leper!*

¹⁴ Then Jesus told him, "Do not yet tell anyone that you are healed. First, go to a priest *in Jerusalem* and show yourself to him. *He will examine you and verify that you no longer have leprosy. Also take to the priest* the offering that Moses commanded that people who have been healed from leprosy must offer."

² OR Fishermen follow Jesus.

³ OR so that the many people can easily hear me speaking to them.

⁴ OR present with someone. OR close to someone.

⁵ OR Jesus heals very sick people.

¹⁵ But many people heard the news about what Jesus had done. As a result, large crowds⁶ came to Jesus to hear his message, and so that he would heal their diseases. ¹⁶ But Jesus often went/would go away from them to the wilderness in order to pray *to God without distractions*.

¹⁷ One day, while Jesus was teaching, some men from the Pharisee sect were sitting there *listening*. Also there were some men who taught the Jewish laws. They had come from many villages in Galilee district, from Jerusalem city, and from other villages in Judea district. And the Lord/God was giving to Jesus power to heal people.

¹⁸ *While Jesus was teaching in a house*, four men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They wanted to bring him into the house and lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ But there was no way to do so, because there were so/too many people *blocking the doorway*. So instead, they went up steps outside the house onto the *house's flat roof*, where they removed some roof tiles. After making an opening in the roof, they lowered the paralyzed man on his mat through the opening. There he was surrounded by the people near Jesus.

²⁰ When Jesus saw by *the men's action* that they believed that he could heal the paralyzed man, he said to him, "My friend/brother, I forgive your sins!" ²¹ Then the Pharisees and the men who taught the Jewish laws began to think to themselves, "By saying that,⁷ Jesus is insulting God,⁸ because only God can forgive sins!" ²² Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he said to them, "I know what you are thinking. *So consider this:* ²³ It is easy for someone to say, 'I forgive your sins,' but it would be hard for anyone to say to a paralytic, 'Get up and walk!'

²⁴ I shall now show you that I am the Divine Human Son who has come from heaven, and that I have authority⁹ on earth both to forgive people's sins and to heal their diseases." Then he said to the paralyzed man, "To you I say, 'Get up, pick up your mat, and go home!' " ²⁵ Immediately, the man was healed. He stood up before them, picked up the mat on which he had been lying, and went home, praising God.

²⁶ All the people there were amazed! They praised God and were completely awestruck/shocked. They kept saying, "We^(inc) have seen wonderful things today!"

Jesus calls Levi/Matthew to become his disciple. Jesus also answers questions¹⁰

²⁷ When Jesus left that house, he saw a man named Levi, who collected taxes for the government. As Levi was sitting in a booth where he collected taxes, Jesus said to him, "Come with me, and become my disciple!" ²⁸ So Levi quit his job, and went with Jesus.

²⁹ Afterwards, Levi (*who was wealthy*) prepared a big feast in his own house for Jesus (*as an honored guest*) and his disciples. There were many tax collectors and others eating together with them.

³⁰ Some men who belonged to the Pharisee sect were there (*in the village*) with their friends who taught

⁶ OR many, many people.

⁷ OR Who does he think he is?!

⁸ OR Jesus is pretending to be God.

⁹ OR I have God's power and permission. OR God has authorized/empowered me.

¹⁰ OR Levi (Matthew) follows Jesus.

the Jewish laws. These men complained to Jesus' disciples, saying, "It is wrong/disgusting for you to be eating with tax collectors, because they are sinners!"³¹ When Jesus heard this, he said to them all, "It is sick people who need help from a doctor, not those who are well."³² Similarly, I did not come to your town to invite righteous people¹¹ to repent. On the contrary, I came to invite those who are sinners to turn from their sinful behavior."

³³ Then some men said to Jesus, "John the Baptizer's disciples often abstain from food while they pray to God. And the Pharisees' disciples do the same thing. But your disciples keep on eating and drinking every day! Why do they not fast¹² as the others do?"³⁴ *To show them that it was not appropriate for his disciples to abstain from food while he was still with them*, Jesus said, "At a wedding, you do not make the groom's friends abstain from food and drink, do you? (*Of course not!*)¹³ I am like a groom with his friends, while I am with my disciples.

³⁵ But some day, my enemies will come to take me from my disciples. At that time, they will abstain from food, because they will be sad."³⁶ Then Jesus told them two parables *to show them that his new message is different from their old traditions*.¹⁴ He said, "People never tear a cloth piece from new clothing and sew it to old clothing to mend it. If they did that, then they would ruin the new clothing, and the new cloth piece would not match the old clothing.

³⁷ Also, nobody puts fresh grape juice into old skin bags to store it. If anyone did that, then the grape juice would burst the skin bags *because they would not stretch when the juice ferments/expands while becoming new wine*. Then the skin bags would be ruined, and the wine would also spill out.³⁸ That is why people put fresh grape juice into new skin bags.³⁹ Furthermore/Also,¹⁵ people who have drunk only old wine are content with that, so that they do not want¹⁶ to drink grape juice. Instead, they say, 'Old wine is better!'"

¹¹ OR people who obey God's laws.

¹² OR fast. If your language has a religious word for "fast" (to not eat), then you may use it here.

¹³ OR (omit these words). This is a rhetorical question so the speaker assumes his listeners will automatically know the answer. You can make this rhetorical question into a statement.

¹⁴ OR *to show them that those who desire to live according to God's new message should not be forced to obey the old religious traditions (like fasting)*.

¹⁵ OR Then, to illustrate that his new message is different from their old traditions, Jesus said, "

¹⁶ OR are reluctant.