

Christ Lutheran Church

Share God's Word, Share His love, and do it now!

February 10, 2019

Blown away by Jesus –Luke 5 Part 2 of 2

by Pastor Dave Goehmann

³¹ And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³² and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³ And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴ “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ³⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶ And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷ And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

Jesus Heals Many

³⁸ And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf.

³⁹ And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹ And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

Jesus Preaches in Synagogues

⁴² And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³ but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.” ⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Same old same old . nothing ever changes. It is what it is. Man, that sounds like a miserable existence. To some extent that’s true, life stinks. But on

the other hand, maybe there is something we are missing. Maybe there is something better than just missing out.

Peter and the other soon to be disciples weren't looking for new jobs as far as we know. They may have been perfectly content where they were in life. Maybe it was Zebedee's sons whose life dream it was to work for the family business.

But now recently it was the same ole same ole. Nothing could possibly go right after trying to fish all night. These fishermen knew their pond. They knew exactly where the hot spots were. They were probably a little closer to the shore. They had tried them all. They knew that lake like the back of their hand, They knew when the fish weren't biting.

But Jesus changed all that. Jesus said put your nets out one more time and see what happens. Then, as you can imagine, Peter, James, and John were blown away. They were blown away because not only did they catch fish. They caught two boatloads of fish.

Jesus introduced a new possibility. What if life wasn't so predictable. What if there was a way to change everything. What if? I love the line that the Kratt brothers have right before the Wild Kratts theme song. That's the show where they put on their creature suits and become just like the animals. And all the animals are different. All the animals have creature powers. What if you were like an animal? What if you were like a fish.

Think about how boring it would be to be a fish. Like Dory from Finding Nemo said, just keep swimming, keep swimming, keep swimming, keep swimming. Just go with the flow, and that won't blow you away at all. You just swim and swim and swim in the same way in the same place going nowhere in particular.

Except Salmon, the greatest fish ever, that swim against the current. Why? So they can lay eggs and reproduce. And then there is many more and there is plenty more Salmon rolls for me to eat.

Okay let's not get sidetracked on animals and food. Jesus introduces something different. Jesus blows away the disciples when they realize there are so many different possibilities. It is a wise saying that if you do the same thing over and over you can't expect different results. Most of the time that's true, but nothing is the same with Jesus. Insert Jesus, Insert the impossible.

Peter has one of the greatest confession of sin in the New Testimente. He says Lord I am a sinner. Yes, Peter, you are. You are because you believed that nothing could ever change. You believed that life happened a certain way, and that's how life will keep happening.

Jesus says that without faith like a child we can never enter into the kingdom of God. Faith like a child includes all the possibilities. At least when it comes to their dreams. Children can dream and they can dream big. They believe that life is full of lots of possibilities. And they are right. But those possibilities can only be true if Jesus is part of the picture.

Many of you listening are old. You have had the same old problems for years. Maybe you have that same old problem with one of your legs, one of your arms, or one of your toes. You may even have the same old relationships that have been all wrong for years. The longer you live, the more you realize that the possibilities seem more and more limited.

But the good new is you can imagine like no one else can. You can think of more possibilities than the young person can. Why? Because you can consider all the possibilities of what heaven will look like. Think of the possibilities of how heaven

will be different than this life full of problems. And maybe I'm thinking a little too positively, but what you imagine is closer to you than any young person.

But as I said. Our greatest sin could be that we don't realize the possibilities. The disciples minds were now open to the possibilities of life. They were blown away by what could happen. Just this week I was talking to the 6th grade class about why I think pets will be in heaven. Then I remember saying, "Mind blown!" I love that phrase.

And even though the disciples minds were blown. Even though their minds were open to whatever Jesus would do next. Even though they were so blown away that they were ready to pick up and follow Jesus, their minds were slightly closed. How often are our minds closed just enough, that we can't let Jesus in?

The disciples didn't think that Jesus would be so crazy to be willing to hang on a cross. That was the furthest thing from their minds because they figured Jesus would just stop suffering over and over again. He healed people, took care of people, and he did all these things. And then when it came down to it, the disciples were thinking the same thing when Jesus was hanging on the cross. If you're the great Physician, then heal yourself.

Little did they consider the possibility that Jesus was dying for their sin. Little did they consider what could happen next. Little did they understand that God loved them that much. Little did they understand his suffering was for them.

The beauty of it all is that the disciples would have their minds blown when Jesus rose from the dead. This meant Jesus had defeated death itself. That is enough to blow us away all the way to heaven.

If Jesus could do that, then think of all the possibilities in this life, and the next. Jesus is not done blowing us away. After Jesus rose from the dead, he wasn't

done blowing away the disciples. He snuck up on the shore, and said hey guys throw out your nets on the other side. Are you nuts? When Jesus did it, he said go to another spot. That makes sense, but whoever this guy is thinks we can just switch sides. How does that make any sense.

Then they caught a ton of fish, and boom, minds blown again. It has to be Jesus! John cried out. And what's more, this time, the nets didn't break. This time, Jesus did something even more amazing, even more perfect!

I know life isn't full of things that blow our mind that much necessarily. But you never know. You never can tell. And who would have thought. Jesus loves you a little more each day. With Jesus there are so many more possibilities than before. With God, all things are possible.

Don't you want to live your life that way. Don't you want to live a life that is full of possibilities. And when you get blown away, it only confirms life is not so predictable. Apparently it's not the same old same old. Apparently Jesus has always got something up his sleeve to wow you with.

Jesus does the unexpected. And it only takes a little faith to get us going in the right direction. Jesus gets us going away from the flow and into his arms. I don't know about you, but I'll take Jesus rather than the same ole same ole. I'd rather live my life looking for places I will get blown away. That's Jesus. That's a new way to live. What if?