

Seeing Jesus: Pressing Ever Outward
Luke 4:31-5:11
Sermon Outline

Introduction: It's not always easy to be comfortable with Christianity's global mission.

I) The global mission is Jesus' idea

A) Evidence

5:10: From now on you will be catching men

4:43: I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well.

Peter's message on Pentecost (Acts 2) and his mission to Cornelius (Acts 10) were Jesus' doing.

B) Dealing with our embarrassment about the global mission

II) Jesus' message is more than a message

"God has come to put all things right"

A) Evidence

1) The catch of fish

- Funny and scary

2) The experience throughout Galilee

4:32: ...astonished at his teaching

4:33: What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth!

4:40: he laid hands on every one of them and healed them. hv. 18: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...

B) God's future breaking in

III) What draws us in more fully to the mission?

Clearer and deeper vision of Jesus

A) Peter's experience

- The drama on the boat
- Peter's response

B) Jesus doesn't leave

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) What difficulties do you have or your friends have with the global mission of Christianity?
- 2) The story in Luke 5:1-11, combined with Jesus' words in Luke 4:43, make clear that Christianity's global mission was Jesus' idea, not Peter's. How does this fact modify your answer to question 1, if it does?

- 3) It has been rightly said that the gospel message is not, “Believe in Jesus and you will go to heaven when you die.” Why in the light of Luke 4:31 – 5:11 is this summary of the message defective. How in the light of this text would you describe the gospel message?
- 4) What is the point of the great catch of fish? Why this particular sign? Why so many fish?
- 5) Note Peter’s response to the great catch of fish in Luke 5:8. What is odd about it? How might you have responded differently if you had been Peter? Why did he respond as he did? Take note in your answer the story in Luke 4:38-39, Peter’s activity in Luke 5:2, and Peter’s response to Jesus’ suggestion that they go fishing (Luke 5:5).
- 6) Reflect on the following: “Evangelistic movements, especially for entrepreneurial Americans, can be of interest because of the dynamics and sheer size of the movements. They can be of interest, further, because of the charisma of their leaders. There can be great danger in all of this, especially in a land where advertising, technique, and celebrity appeal have been mastered to the point where we can make things happen. But here in a boat in the Sea of Galilee we see the essential thing. We see the Person of Jesus rising in the mind of one man. This is the reality, repeated over and over, that causes the real movement to happen. Without it, the movement is hollow. It is a lie and it ultimately lacks all satisfaction for those who are involved in it.”
- 7) Reflect upon the ways in which Jesus has “risen” in your own mind. Spend some time thanking him.