

I. Quotes

II. Set Up

III. Introduction

IV. Review

A. We are being amazed by Christ – his claims and actions. Luke has chronicled a handful of things Jesus did early in his ministry to make it clear that he's not simply a Jewish rabbi, a wise sage, a moral reformer. He is God.

B. We are not looking at everything here.

1. His grace is also amazing. So amazing that people believe it.

2. So is the world He created is amazing. I am amazed every time I read up on the latest arguments for design.

a) The Bible doesn't ever set out to prove God's existence. He is assumed. But a few of the arguments

b)

C. We're not given a definitive list here and we're not doing justice to the one's we're given. In the first one I mentioned Christ's claim to be the fulfillment of the Isaiah passage.

1. There are several hundred other prophecies about the Messiah:

a) Born in Bethlehem

b) Born in the tribe of Judah

c)

d) There is a similar line of argument about the fulfillment of prophecy.

D. There is much about God that is amazing. Perhaps the most amazing thing about the whole study is that we keep downsizing him.

E. Last week it was Christ's mission.

1. He said, "I must preach. I was sent to bring the Good News of the Kingdom of God. I'm not against healing, but I'm not starting a hospital. I don't mind praying for people, and I'll do it along the way, but I have to keep moving. I'm going to go village to village to village preaching. I've got to share the truth. I've got to keep the main thing the main thing."

2. We saw Jesus pursue his calling not his potential.

a) He could have a gazillion dollars with his ability to heal people. And that would have been a wonderful thing! But that is not what he did.

b) He could have spent all his time reacting to the immediate needs around him. That is not what he did.

c) He could have done what people wanted him to do – that's not what he did.

d) He is very intentional. He withdraws to have time alone to keep his perspective and then announces, "I have to keep moving."

3. He had a clear sense of his call. He implied that history is heading somewhere and we have a chance to be part of that. And I took

advantage of Christ's statements about his mission, and the fact that it was the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birth, to

- F. Today we see Christ do two amazing things.
 - 1. First, he demonstrate his power over nature. It's not as dramatic a moment as when he calms the storm later on. The disciples – some of whom are fishermen – are in a boat but believe they are going to die.
 - 2. He starts to select his team. And it will be a bunch of misfits. And he will mold them in a way that they launch a revolution that is still going on.

V. Luke 5

- A. One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. ² He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.
- B. ⁴ When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."
- C. ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
- D. ⁶ When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.
- E. ⁸ When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" ⁹ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, ¹⁰ and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.
- F. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." ¹¹ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

VI. Let's take this a verse at a time

- A. One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,
 - 1. This is also called the Sea of Galilee, though, for the record it's not a sea. Israel has so little water that a lake – albeit a big lake, 13 miles wide and 8 miles long – is called a sea.
 - 2. Jesus is a rock star. Everyone wants to get close.
- B. The people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.
 - 1. Jesus is teaching. (Of course, Jesus is God, all his words are "the word of God.")
- C. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.
 - 1. It's quitting time.
- D. V. 3: He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon (Peter), and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

1. Jesus will do this on several occasions. First, the boat is an escape route. You can imagine huge crowds could push you right into the water.
 2. Second, both the water and the way the beach is shaped actually acts as a bit of an amphitheater. And that helps.
 - a) We don't get a number here. But later we'll get a few, and it seems that Jesus can speak to thousands. He has a voice that carries.
 - b) But you know that sound carries on water.
 3. So, Jesus is using the technology of the day here.
- E. V.4: When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."
1. The translation here is: Are you kidding me? We're tired. We fished all night. We've cleaned up. It's time for bed. And, oh by the way, you're a carpenter. If you were a fisherman – like me! – then you'd know that you don't catch fish during the day. If you wanted to talk to me about making a table I'd defer to you. This is a bad idea.
 2. Jesus insists and so Peter relents. OK, you want to go fishing. I'll be a nice guy. So he let down the nets.
- F. When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"
1. This is one of those times when you can only appreciate how amazing something is if you are good at it. Earlier in the chapter Jesus had healed Peter's mother-in-law. That did not have as much effect on him as this did. Peter didn't know medicine. He knew fishing. He'd been fishing his whole life. He knows how it works. He knows what you can expect. He knows what a great haul of fish is. And he knows when he is in the presence of something utterly amazing. The text says that they catch so many fish that: their nets begin to break, they fill two boats, both boats start to sink.
- G. Everyone is astonished. V. 9: For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.
- H. Peter's response? "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man."
1. Let's acknowledge that that's an odd response. You'd expect him to say, "How about you and me, we become partners! You tell me where to fish and I'll give you half."
 2. Let's pause to note that there are magnitudes of awe.
 - a) Low level awe would be, "That was so lucky. You are so lucky. I can't believe a carpenter did that. Well, you can't do it twice."

- b) Level two would be, “Wow. That’s incredible. I don’t know what to say.”
 - c) Level three would be, “How did you do that? What’s going on here? Am I being punked? Is this a set up? What’s the trick?”
 - 3. And that’s pretty much where it stops. I’ve never seen anyone do something so amazing that my response – or anyone else’s response – is to fall on my knees and worship, call them Lord and say, “I’m not worthy do be around you.” That is what Peter does. He is amazed at Jesus.
 - I. Let’s watch a clip of this.
 - J. And then, V 10: “Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.
 - K. The clip doesn’t get it exactly right – but close enough. What I appreciate about this is that Peter senses there is more going on than a big haul of fish.
 - L.
- VII. Five things to note about this
 - A. Jesus has power over nature.
 - 1. He can make fish swim into a net. Later he’ll calm a storm to demonstrate the same thing. And he’ll walk on water and multiply food.
 - 2. And this is all consistent with what God has done.
 - 3. Walk on water.
 - B. Jesus works with and through people.
 - 1. He invests in people. He didn’t leave a building. He didn’t leave a large endowment – even though it’s clear he could have. If you can heal the sick and control nature, making money is not a problem.
 - 2. He invests in others and seeks to shape them into the kind of people who will shape others.
 - C. The people Jesus uses
 - 1. We’ll look at this a bit more in a few weeks when we look at the call of the 12. But for now let’s note, Peter is a fisherman. That’s an OK job but not a great one. It’s hard work. You do not make it big as a fisherman. You do not make a name for yourself as a fisherman.
 - 2. The bright kids were separated
 - 3. We’ll see a lot of Peter. And Luke will be focused on him during the first half of the sequel to his Gospel. He keeps writing and gives us the Acts of the Apostles – an overview of the first 30 years of the church. Peter has a lead role through a good part of it. He’s eclipsed by Paul at some point. But then we’ll also have the letters Peter writes later in life.
 - 4. What will be obvious later on is how much Peter matures. He keeps learning and growing and being transformed in so many ways.
 - 5. Early on he’s impetuous. He can be counted on to act first and think later. It causes a lot of problems.

- a) He fails all the time. He's the Charlie Brown of the Bible. He never gets his foot on the ball. He is always running, slipping, right on his back, that's Peter. And he always gets up and he's like "Jesus, I'm sorry again." Jesus is like, "I know Peter, I love ya." "Jesus, I'm sorry again." "Yeah, Peter, I know. We're good. Peter will try to boss Jesus around – that doesn't end well. He'll deny him. That is tragic. But he stays in there. And he will end well. He's a great example of progressive sanctification.
 - 6. What he is is FAT
 - a) Faithful. He keeps trying
 - b) Available. He drops everything to follow. Billy Graham said years ago that he met many people more gifted than he was. He suspects that the reason God used him as much as he did was that no one was more available to be used.
 - c) Teachable.
 - D. Sometimes we get asked to do things we think are a bit crazy.
 - 1. Peter was.
 - E. Train other leaders.
- VIII. It's All about Evangelism
 - A. I will make you fishers of men.
 - 1. Think about that.
 - 2. Let's be excited about the things God is excited about.
 - 3. Jesus said to Peter – follow me and everything will change.
 - 4. It's not about expanding your fleet of boats. It's not about big hauls of fish
 - a) When I was little I was in SS
 - b)
 - B. When Jesus called his disciples he said that he was going to make them something
 - 1. It wasn't disciplined or good looking or rich
 - 2. He said that he was going to make them, "Fishers of men."
 - C. Disciples didn't follow him because of that. they followed him because he'd done a great miracle
 - D. And we follow him because
 - 1. There is no one like him
 - 2. He forgave us
 - 3. Got us out of the mess we get ourselves into
 - 4. And lots of other great stuff that happens when you follow Jesus
 - E. But he said, "I want to make you something."
 - 1. I want to use you to tell others about me
 - 2. I want to use you so that I can do for others what I've done for you.
 - 3. That's the plan.
 - F. Some of you do not like the plan
 - G. Others do not understand that this is the plan

- H. Others think religion is private
- I. But Jesus is clear. This is the plan. And it is what happened. They went out and talked about it. And people signed up and it was passed down the line.
 - 1. The people who heard told others, who told others, who told others – until someone told you.
 - 2. Tom Gale and Scott Culley told me. He used these guys.
- J. Our message is not intuitive. It's not a philosophy. It's nothing something you can figure out on your own if you think about it long enough.
- K. In fact, it's shocking and hard to believe even after you first hear it.
 - 1. Do you mean, God showed up here
 - 2. As a baby
 - 3. And he served others. And died in my place.
- L. Our default approach to life is – try harder to be good. It's not,
- M. Christinaity is history. You don't get it unless someone tells you.
- N. It is communicated person to person. We are expected to fish
- IX. God, enable me to speak your word with boldness.
 - A. The tendency is to think that this is a solo mission. We need to do it. We need to force the conversation.
 - B. So we make some silly transition
 - 1. Nice sun set.
 - 2. God made it
 - 3. That God loves you.
 - C. We are nervous so others end up being nervous.
 - D. Fishing was never intended to be a solo expedition
 - 1. We are not left alone to convince and compel people
 - 2. We are called to partner with others
 - E. This isn't urgent but it's important. Especially if we take this seriously.
- X. We all have a fishing partner
 - A. If you do not use them you make it harder
 - B. Mt. 16:
 - 1. Tax collector
 - 2. Not worthy to be religious person and he ends up writing a letter in the Bible
 - C. Mt. 16:13ff
 - D. Ask your friends at lunch tomorrow this question
 - 1. Who do people say that I am?
 - 2. They will say, "Uh, no one is talking about you, but you."
 - E. But they were talking about Jesus.
 - 1. Everyone had an opinion.
 - 2. Loved or hated
 - 3. Disciples says, in essence, people say you are from God, but not a lot of clarity after that
 - 4. But people are talking about you.
 - F. Then Jesus asks, "The question."
 - 1. There are lots of good questions.
 - a) Did men write the Bible?

- b) Are there errors?
 - c) Where is God in a famine
- 2. But this is the question
- G. But what about you, who do you think I am?
 - 1. This is the big question.
- H. Peter gets the right answer. Not common. This is huge moment in history.
- I. You are standing just a few feet from me.
 - 1. Look a lot like me
 - 2. But you are God.
 - 3. Standing next to me.
 - 4. Son of the Living God.
- J. Jesus says, “Right answer.” And he is so excited that he changes Peter’s name.
 - 1. A big deal when you change someone’s name, especially an adult
 - 2. No one named Peter before this.
 - 3. I am going to call you “Stone.”
 - 4. Going to call you rock. Not huge rock, but one you can pick up.
- K. And on this rock
 - 1. Now it’s word for big rocks. Can’t move them rocks
 - 2. Lots of discussion on “this”
 - a) Is it Peter or something else
- L. On this stone I will (future tense) build my church and the gates of hell will not
 - 1. This is the beginning
 - 2. On this big, huge, no one can ever get their arms around it, I will – in the future – build my church
 - 3. Church back then was not a religious word
 - 4. It was used to describe the voting citizens of a town
 - 5. Used to describe an assembly
 - a) You call church and the voters showed up
- M. I want you to mark this moment
 - 1. This is Stone.
 - 2. And on this statement he made I am going to launch a movement and I am going to build a brand new citizenship – the assembly – all who join will be united not by their ethnicity or nationality but by this common belief that Stone just said, “I am the Christ.”
 - 3. And in the future I am going to build a new movement and the gates of hell – nothing – will be able to stop it.
 - 4. It will build and grow and nothing will stop it
- N. There are 12 of them there
- O. Wow.
- P. Mark it down. It hasn’t started yet. But in the future I am going to build it and nothing will be able to stop it.
- Q. And here we are 2,000 years later, and 2B people today from all over
 - 1. Different countries
 - 2. Different dress codes

3. Different styles of music
 4. Different languages
 5. Different ages
 6. Different ways of doing church
 7. Different cultures, tribes, tongues and languages
 8. Get us all in the same room, and there is one big thing we have in common – Jesus is the unique, Son of God, Messiah
- R. Here we are
1. Build it means – go wide
 2. And every generation that comes it will be bigger
 3. Until everyone has heard, that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah
- S. And you can't stop it
1. And let's be honest.
 2. We have tried. The church has had every kind of problem imagine
 - a) Scandal. Corruption. The inquisition and the crusades
 - b) Petty divisions
 - c) Bickering. Fights over doctrine and music
 - d) Exercises in completely missing the point
 3. We have done virtually everything wrong to the church that could be done to the church – but it marches on.
 4. It's been denounced. It's been persecuted. It's been outlawed.
 5. Every kind of opposition it could face and every kind of strategic blunder imaginable has happened – but nothing can stop it.
 6. This is the flow of history.
 7. God is going to build his church
 8. And you can believe or not believe. You can participate or not. But it will prevail.
 9. One day every knee will bow, and every voice will proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- XI. You go fish / I am going to build my church
- A. Jesus says, you can play games, but I am going to build my church
 - B. What is the relationship between them?
 - C. The church is – and is supposed to be – a partner in the fishing process
 - D. If you loved your friends you wouldn't invite them to church.
 - E. There are easy front doors
 1. MOPS
 2. MF
 - F. We want people to be in the presence of the living savior
 1. As good as it gets until Jesus comes back is to be in a healthy church that is acting like a community of believers is supposed to act
 - G. Mt 18:19-20
 - H. Come and See.
 - I. Come and see this.
 - J. That is what we are supposed to be. Something almost irresistible.
 - K. Just bring your kids to Route 6:6 one time.

- L. Just get your kids to SHYG one time
- M. Just show up at MF once.
- N. Just come and see it.
- XII. Can we have non Christians in our study?
 - A. Yes. And watch them change.
 - B. Love them.
 - C. Invest in them and invite them.
 - D. People will come in with both feet on the break. Just love them.
 - E. You do not have to answer every question.
- XIII. Imagine how much better your life would be if you had been raised in a loving church and learned the great stuff
 - A. Been on the spiritual journey we have marked out for kids?
 - B.
 - C. Are you investing and inviting?
 - D. Are you serving others
 - E. If you do not want to do that – if you do not want to serve and love others. If you only want to show up to get your credit and then leave. If you do not want to talk to anyone about Christ, but keep it all private, please, please, please find another church, b/c that attitude will sink us.
 - F. I didn't grow up with a desire to work at a church.
 - 1. The church I went to was boring.
 - 2. I jumped out the window
 - 3. I hide my clothes
 - G. No one on staff wants to be part of an institution that serves itself or calls on people to be good. But to have a chance to share great news! To talk about a God of grace. To introduce people to life.
 - H. We want to be part of a revolution. And by God's grace
 - I. I will give my life to that.
- XIV. God will build his church and nothing will stop it. You have a chance to be a part of this.
 - A. The hope of the world.
 - B. You don't have to fish alone.
 - C.
 - D. Just come and see. Experience.
 - E.
 - 1.
 - 2. But there is one Christ, the Son
- XV.
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)
 - e)
 - f)
 - g)
 - B. What's It Gonna Cost?

1. It will cost. Not everyone has to walk away from a business. Some do.
2. Peter leaves everything. He doesn't say, I'll be there in three months. First, I'm going to sell the fish and the boats. I've got to list the nets on eBay. That could be a few weeks. But once I do that I'm good.
3. After I get my affairs in order and everything's secure, then Jesus, I'm ready to roll." What he does, he just..."That's it, I'm following Jesus. I'm following Jesus." Am I saying every one of you should quit your job? No. Should some of you? Yeah, if God tells you to do that. It's amazing. They left everything to go make disciples.
4. We can be very immature that way. What does a baby think about? Themselves. What is an adult supposed to think about – others.

XVI. Worship Texts

XVII. Announcements

- A. Next week Mike will be looking at the topic of healing.

XVIII. Questions

- A. What do you think Zebedee thought about the decision of his two boys to follow Jesus.