Ordinary Places become Sacred Ground

7.23.23 | Luke 5

# Texts

**Luke 5:1-11 NIV**

**5**One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%205&version=NIV#fen-NIV-25109a)] 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.

**4**When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

**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.”

**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.

**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.

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.

**Vs. 27-32 NIV**

**27**After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, **28**and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

**29**Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. **30**But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

**31**Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **32**I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

**Luke 5:1-11 ESV**

**5**On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, **2**and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3**Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. **4**And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5**And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” **6**And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. **7**They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **8**But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” **9**For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, **10**and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+5&version=ESV#fen-ESV-25109a)] **11**And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

**Vs. 27-32**

**27**After this he went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth. And he said to him, “Follow me.” **28**And leaving everything, he rose and followed him.

**29**And Levi made him a great feast in his house, and there was a large company of tax collectors and others reclining at table with them. **30**And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” **31**And Jesus answered them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **32**I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”

# Initial Thoughts

* The disciples didn’t follow Jesus to get more fish, but something else made them LEAVE their fish (and their money).
* They finally caught fish, and they left it all behind.
* They weren’t waiting for Jesus, but they were available.
* They had already come in from fishing – they had already given up.
* Jesus gave them a miracle that may not seem
* In Luke 5:27-32 Jesus says “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick”, and he’s talking about Levi, a guy he just called to be his disciple. He says his disciple is a sinner.”
  + Jesus doesn’t n
* Jewish system elevates the best of the best, but then Jesus calls those ‘left behind’ that almost ‘dropped out’ of the system.
  + In this time, bloodlines were hugely important. Of the religious leaders, the Pharisees were looked down on by other groups. The Sadducees thought they were superior to the Pharisees, and even the Essenes rejected those who met in temples. They saw themselves as “Pure Israel” – thinking they would see the Messiah come to earth to elevate them, and destroy all Gentiles once and for all.
* Did Simon know Jesus? Is this the same Simon from Luke 4? With the sick Mother-in-law?
* Jesus destroys the line between Secular and Sacred – Jesus shows up at Peter’s workplace.
* Jesus asks to transform Peter’s worldview, Peter agreed.
* Jesus invades all of Peter’s life (personal, work)
  + OT references (Naaman healed – Jesus can heal Peter’s Mother-in-law
  + OT References (Mana & Quail provided – Jesus can provide fish)
* We don’t know that Peter was poor – don’t paint him as a poor man. It’s easy for the poor to leave everything, it’s different for a business man to do so.
  + Compare & Contrast Levi & Sinners
* Levi – Networking with his friends & family. Jesus didn’t crash his party. Levi has the idea to throw the party and witness.
  + Jesus was the guest of honor for a party thrown by a man employed by Rome.
* Peter says Get away – Levi says come party
  + Jesus invades the workplace – Initiates with Peter, Invited by Levi.
* BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIER BETWEEN SECULAR & SACRED
  + Peter’s workplace became the conduit – Jesus preached from his boat.
  + Levi’s co-workers are who you invited.
* Tell a story with Movement.
* In one sentence, what is your sermon saying
* What do you want to accomplish? It’s easy to preach commands, but more meaningful to preach an invitation to discover the Word of God on their own – get off your high horse. Remove the wall
* Climax should be big, and answer all previous questions.
* Connect application more concrete to main point.
* Shooting above their heads – don’t put all the cookies on the bottom shelf.
* Know your audience, though it’s diverse, something from God for all.
  + Which part of my sermon is for this demographic? Use various parts for various audiences.
* Put on the lens of Peter – read the text as Peter.

The great preacher Charles Spurgeon said in a sermon in 1874: "To a man who lives unto God nothing is secular, everything is sacred. He puts on his workday garment and it is a vestment to him. He sits down to his meal and it is a sacrament. He goes forth to his labor, and therein exercises the office of the priesthood. His breath is incense and his life a sacrifice. He sleeps on the bosom of God, and lives and moves in the divine presence.  To draw a hard and fast line and say, “This is sacred and this is secular,” is, to my mind, diametrically opposed to the teaching of Christ and the spirit of the gospel."

Working Outline

# Intro

Name, Role, reference Ty Hill. timeline at Trinity, Family, etc.

I grew up in northern Indiana, working on a large farm, we had several thousand head of cattle, hogs, and hundreds of acres of farmland. I started there when I was 13. I used to ride my bike to work, and by the time I was in College I had put in almost 10 years of work here. I worked there for so long partially because I loved the work – being outside, using big machines and fixing everything from like barns, trucks, tractors, and even sick cows. But the main reason I loved working there so much was because of my boss.   
  
The guy I worked for, the owner of the farm was a strong Christian, in fact he operated his farm in such a way that it would make him money without him being present. This allowed him to be a full-time missionary overseas, he would be gone about 2 weeks of every month to train pastors in 3rd world countries in both theology, and farming techniques to make them sustainable and grounded pastors. While he’s doing that, he’s paying a handful of us back home to run his farm. Genius.  
  
Now the people I worked alongside on the farm were incredibly hard-working, resourceful, and smart. Our boss was obviously a devout Christian, but all of his employees were incredibly unspiritual. At work we never talked about God or Jesus, sin or sanctification. We talked mostly about work, and if there was small talk happening, it was certainly not based around God, or anything spiritual at all. **Essentially, for me work felt like one of the most ordinary places. Though there were Christians there, the farm never felt like a place God was active there, just passive. In short – the presence of Christians didn’t make work a sacred place.** Anybody here resonate with that?

To be fair, in High School I was a consistent church-attender, but I was not necessarily choosing to follow Jesus. I was completely fine with work being an unspiritual place – in fact it felt a lot more comfortable that way.

When I got to be near the end of High School, my boss did something that I will never forget. It through me off guard, but I honestly accredit this decision to be a large part of why I am where I am in my job, and in my relationship with Jesus. He told me that through the 3 months of summer, he wanted me once a month to come to work, clock-in, then spend the entire day with the Lord. Don’t do any work. Bring your bible, a journal, and just walk the farm, go to the fields, go in the woods, go down by the river, spend the day with Jesus, then clock-out and go home. I’ll pay you one day month to spend the entire day with God.

To be honest, at first I was so excited to get paid to do nothing! I had plans of taking my fishing pole, catching and cooking crawdads, playing my guitar, and just relaxing all day! I had honestly resigned the day to this, and I did all of those things. I fished, swam, ate, played guitar - then I started to feel a bit guilty about not even trying to spend time with God, and I started to get nervous. I started to get really uncomfortable. You see I started to realize that in my worldview, Jesus didn’t belong at work. Work was not a spiritual place. Work was where you go to make money, have a few laughs with co-workers, have a few fights with co-workers, and go home. God didn’t belong at work.  
  
I did eventually pull out my bible and read, and prayed. I spent honestly maybe 30 minutes of the whole day actually connected with God. But I honestly believe those 30 minutes changed my life.   
  
I remember vividly being out behind a hog barn, on the tailgate of my truck, and I felt God move. I wish more than anything I could remember word-for-word what I heard, or felt. I don’t. I do remember the feeling of genuine surprise realizing that this ordinary place - a place I had walked and driven tractors on hundreds of times – this ordinary place became Sacred**. On an ordinary day, in an ordinary place, with an ordinary teenage kid – God moved.**

# Text

Luke 5:1-11. A bit of context, this is early in Luke – chapter 5 – especially considering the first few chapters talk about the birth of John the Baptist, the birth of Jesus, the genealogy of Jesus and even Jesus as a boy. By the time the text we’re about to look at takes place, Jesus would have been around teaching, specifically in the city of Capernaum for a while. Likely near or in the Synagogue (or church). Jesus had performed a few healings and driven out some spirits by this time, so word was beginning to spread about Jesus, though up to this point nobody had labeled him the Messiah or Christ yet.  
  
Earlier, Luke 5 was read, in the first 3 verses we see Jesus teaching a large crowd. They couldn’t hear him, so He gets on Simon’s boat and asks Him to take his boat out near the shore so he can teach and everybody can hear him.

Jesus has a following. People come to listen to him speak. He goes out by a lake, a nice little setting, and off to the side there is a crew of fishermen. Now we know from Luke 4 that Peter was married, and some of these fishermen were his partners, and some were his employees. So Peter is essentially a small-business owner. He and his crew have been out fishing all night long. The sun is up, they’re exhausted, we’ll find out in a few minutes they didn’t actually catch anything all night.

Here's Peter, tired, defeated, deflated, probably ready to just go home, break the bad news to his wife that he had a really bad day at work, and get some sleep. He’s cleaning his nets, about to finally go home – and then Jesus comes up and says “Hey Simon, can you help me out for a bit? It’s hard for all of my friends to hear me speak the word of God, could you take me out on your boat so I can speak and everybody will hear me?  
  
Peter obliges, and takes Jesus out. Now keep in mind Peter has heard of this Jesus guy, and is aware he has a following – he can see it right in front of him.

Let’s continue:

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

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.”

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.

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.

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.

I want to focus in on Peter, a small business owner, a husband, goes to work like any other day. He has a bad day at work, and right when he’s about to go home. Jesus shows up. Peter takes Jesus out on his boat, and sits right behind him while Jesus preaches. I have to imagine this is one of those moments where Jesus is actually preaching to Peter who is seated behind him, even though everybody else thinks he’s preaching to the crowd on the shore. Jesus knew what he was about to do, but Peter had absolutely no idea.   
  
When Jesus is done preaching and the people disperse, Jesus tells Peter to throw his newly cleaned nets into the water.

**Luke 5:4-5 -** Peter, compelled by Jesus’s following, or his sermon, or his reputation, obliges and does what Jesus asks.

**Now imagine you’re Peter the moment he sees the fish.** Imagine what went through his mind? Peter, in need of fish, provision for his family, listens to this guy preach the word of God, preach about His Father. And Peter knows the stories of the Old Testament, Peter knows that God is the only being that provide food in times of need. He knows how his ancestors wandered for years, surviving off of Mana and Quail that God provided. **Peter knows these stories and likely heard them countless times at the Synogogue.   
  
But Peter isn’t at the Synogogue – He’s at work.**

Peter also knows more than anybody else in the world just how unlikely it is to catch fish in this lake at this time of day - and how impossible it is to catch that much in the middle of the day now. If you’re Peter you have to think “Only God could do this”.  
  
You see before the catch (v. 5), Peter calls Jesus “master” a term of respect “One who is set above”. However, after the catch, (v. 8) Peter calls him “Lord” or Kyrios - **62** *kýrios* – properly, a person exercising *absolute ownership rights*.

# Jesus at Peter’s home

Now there’s another interaction between Jesus and Peter around this same time. Luke tells it before this miraculous catch, Matthew & Mark tell it immediately after – either way it was very close to this same time.

**Luke 4:38-40 NIV**

**38**Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. **39**So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

**40**At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.

Peter’s Mother-in-law is sick. This has got to be a huge factor in Peter’s life. For one it’s his Wife’s mom. Also, she’s living in their home! Jesus comes into Peter’s home, heals his mother in law, and then the whole town hears about it, at starts bringing people to Peter’s house to be healed! It goes onto say he cast out demons until sunrise! They are up all night – in their living room – watching this man reveal his power all night long.

**For Peter, there, in his home – an ordinary place, to ordinary people, God moved.**

# Jesus calls Levi

The Bible is incredible. Luke writes down 2 stories almost back-to-back that seem entirely different, but are actually perfect parallels. The first is the one we just read about how Jesus calls Peter – the second is when Jesus calls Levi.

**Luke 4:27-32 NIV**

27After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, 28and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

31Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Levi. Wealthy, but not really liked by his own people. Likely a Jewish man who is employed by Rome, this means he’s an always an outsider. To his superiors, he’s just like any other Jewish person, something to keep contained in Judea. To his own community, he’s part of the system that brings subtle oppression to them. Here we have Levi, a guy with a corporate job. It’s likely just a job to him, but it is his entire identity to the people around him.   
  
Jesus walks up to him while he’s at work, sitting at his booth collecting taxes, and says “follow me”. Those 2 words. Levi apparently didn’t love his job, he was eager to leave it! And when he finally found something worth following, he doesn’t just say ‘yea I changed carreers’ - He immediately throws a party! Levi has finally found somebody to follow, something to do with his life that finally brings purpose and belonging. For the first time, perhaps in a long time, Levi was wanted. He invites the only friends he has – fellow tax collectors. He throws a party at his house, and Jesus is the guest of honor.   
  
Meanwhile the Pharisees look on, and gossip about how this Jesus character spends his days at parties with sinners and outcasts. Jesus replies by saying “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance”

Imagine you’re Levi when you hear Jesus say this. Would any of you be offended? Me. My guest of honor comes into MY house and criticizes ME?   
  
Levi seems to react the way we all wish we would – Levi to says “Yes, I am a sinner – I am sick. I do need help, and I’ve found a doctor. And not only have I found a doctor, but I’ve found THE doctor, and he CHOSE ME! So yes, let’s have a party”

**Breakdown of Peter’s Call**

* Small Business owner, employer, husband, but likely not influential
* Knew a lot about Jesus and his message
* Jesus shows up at his work (images of Mana)
* Invites Jesus into his home (images of Naaman)
* Tells Jesus to get away
* Tells Jesus he’s a sinner
* CHOOSES to follow Jesus

Though the people are very different, the story is very similar:

**Breakdown of Levi’s Call**

* Well-paying government job, but likely not influential
* Knew a lot about Jesus and his message
* Jesus shows up at his work
* Invites Jesus into his home
* Tells Jesus to come be a guest of honor
* Jesus tells others that Levi is a sinner – but I still choose him.
* CHOOSES to follow Jesus.

# Connection/Climax

These are stories about 2 incredibly different people, but both of them experienced Jesus invade every aspect of their lives. Jesus would never again be a guy they heard speak at a church once. He was personal. He saw them, He showed up at their work. He showed up in their homes. Jesus wanted to be in every aspect of their lives, and they said “yes**”. Jesus removed the wall between Sacred and Secular in their lives, and the 2 would never be separated again.**

Pastor/Author Wade Trimmer:

There is no word for “spiritual” in the Hebrew Old Testament. Why? Is it because they were not a spiritual people? The reason is because in the Hebrew worldview, everything was spiritual. There was no need to distinguish between spiritual/sacred and the secular because no part of their existence was secular.

**Breakdown of my Call**

* In High school had a good job, good money, not very influential
* Knew a lot about Jesus and his message

Then, one day, my boss bribes me to spend time with Jesus. And even if it was only 30 minutes the whole day. I remember exactly where I was, I remember sitting on the tailgate of my truck, reading the bible – I don’t remember what God said to me, but I felt him. That was the first time in my life I felt the presence of God in a place that I didn’t think was sacred. It was behind a hog barn. I had heard about Jesus, I had even felt his presence at church camps and Worship services – places I expected to see Him. But this was different. **God is not restricted only to places we see as sacred.** (I bet a lot of us in the room agree with that – but it’s one thing to agree with it on a Sunday Morning, and an entirely different thing to believe it on a Thursday Afternoon) He wanted to be with me everywhere. He wanted me to choose Him EVERYWHERE. Soon after this experience I chose to pursue a career in ministry, at the time, it was mainly because in my mind that’s what you did if you wanted to get rid of the “secular” places – you just live in the sacred – and I thought Ministry was how to do that. Luckily years later, God truly called me to ministry, and also revealed he wants to destroy all secular places.   
  
What areas of your life would you consider “secular” or “unspiritual”? Is it your work? Is it your school? Is it your home? Is it with your friends?

You see Jesus wants to take those places you consider secular, and he wants to invade. He wants to kick that wall in and make every single area in your life a Sacred place.

Charles Spurgeon:

"To a man who lives unto God nothing is secular, everything is sacred. He puts on his workday garment and it is a vestment to him. He sits down to his meal and it is a sacrament. He goes forth to his labor, and therein exercises the office of the priesthood. His breath is incense and his life a sacrifice. He sleeps on the bosom of God, and lives and moves in the divine presence.  To draw a hard and fast line and say, “This is sacred and this is secular,” is, to my mind, diametrically opposed to the teaching of Christ and the spirit of the gospel."

# Application

We must remember, however, Jesus often does not invade these secular places in an aggressive way. He didn’t barge onto Peter’s boat and force him to take him out – he didn’t rip the nets out of Peter’s hand and throw them over. He didn’t grab Levi by the collar and say you need to throw a party for me. Jesus asked, but it took faithful obedience and action for Peter and Levi before Jesus would destroy those walls.

If you’re waiting for Jesus to come in and kool-aid man those walls in your life, you may be waiting for a long time. Yet, if you look, I promise you’ll see ways that Jesus is asking “can I make this right?” He will remove those walls, but you’ve got to open the door and let him in.

**When God moves in places we expect Him to, it is powerful. However, when God moves in places we never expected, it changes lives.**

* Bethel where God gave Jacob a vision
* Burning Bush where God called Moses
* Mount Sinai where God spoke to Moses
* Simon’s Living Room where Jesus healed the sick
* Simon’s Boat where Jesus called Simon to follow Him
* Levi’s Tax Booth where Jesus called Levi to follow Him  
  Levi’s home where he revealed that he came not just to heal bodies, but souls
* For me, the tailgate of my truck behind a hog barn where God proved to me that He pursues his children no matter where they are.

Here’s the bottom line. Lots and lots of people know about Jesus. Fewer even know Him personally. Even fewer have experienced Him in a sacred setting. But look at the stories of those 12 incredibly young men. Jesus wasn’t looking for the ones who knew the most about him – Jesus wasn’t looking for the ones who had a lot of influence. Jesus built His church, the church of today. Jesus but the salvation story for all of creation in the hands of a young small business owner who was willing to let Jesus be Lord over every single minute, and every single place in His life. Jesus didn’t call the wisest, but he did call the most willing.   
  
I want you to take out your next steps cards and write down 2 things.  
  
1. Have you ever experienced a move of God in an ordinary place?

2. Name a place in your life you consider purely secular – what can you do to remove the wall and let it become sacred ground?

JESUS WANTS TO DESTROY THE BARRIER THAT DIVIDES SECULAR AND SACRED PLACES IN YOUR LIFE.  
  
To true disciples, everything is sacred, nothing is secular.

All is Sacred, Nothing is Secular | Outline

7.23.23 | Luke 5

# Intro

* Name, Family, Role, TY HILL - (KIDS CAMP!)
* Grew up working on huge farm, owner was man of God – missionary, paid us to run farm
* People I worked with were unspiritual, talked about work – not God
* To be fair, I attended church, but was more comfortable with work being unspiritual.
* End of HS, boss told me to clock in, be with Jesus, clock out.
  + Initially excited to get paid to do nothing
  + Then the day approached – I was nervous & uncomfortable.
  + **In my mind, Jesus didn’t belong at work**
  + Work was to make money, be with co-workers.
* First day I tried it, I was super distracted, but fine with it.
* 30 minutes, but actually heard God speak, **but those 30 minutes changed my life.**
* **1st time I experienced God not in a Sacred Place, where he “didn’t belong”**
* **There, in an ordinary place, to an ordinary kid – God moved.**

# Text

* Context: Early in Luke
  + Jesus had been teaching around Capernaum for a while, doing healings, etc.
  + Had a following, but nobody called him Messiah yet.
* **Jesus Calls Simon Peter**
* **Luke 5:1-3** (reference only)
  + From Luke 4, Simon (Peter) Small Business Owner & Husband
  + Long day of work, exhausted and depleted, Jesus asks Simon to take him out
  + Remember, Simon would’ve known who Jesus was
  + **Peter obliges.**
* **Luke 5:4-11** (reference only)
  + Focus in on Peter – ordinary day, ends up on a boat with Jesus Preaching (to him?)
  + Afterwards, Jesus tells Peter to throw his nets, compelled by something, **He obliges.**
  + **Imagine you’re Peter the moment you see the fish**
    - Heard him preach, heard the rumors, but you know how impossible it is.
    - Why me? At my work?
    - Mana
    - Simon knew the stories of Mana miraculously appearing to his ancestors because he had heard those stories in a Synagogue, but Simon wasn’t in a Synagogue – he was at work.
    - **“Only God could do this”**
    - **There, in an ordinary place, to an ordinary guy – God moved.**
  + In v. 5 He is “Master” but in v. 8 He is Lord “Exercising absolute ownership rights”
* **Jesus Calls Levi** – 2 stories seem very different, but so so similar:
* After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” -Luke 5:27-32
  + Levi, wealthy, but not liked by his own people – Jewish Employee of Rome, outsider
    - Just a Jew, to be contained in Judea vs. part of the oppression system
  + Jesus walks up to him at work, says follow me, and Levi throws a party
    - Jesus is guest of honor, in Levi’s home, with other sinners
    - Pharisees gossip about Jesus at party w/ sinners
    - Jesus calls Levi a sinner.
  + How would you react? “You come to MY house, and are the guest at MY party, and you criticize ME?”
  + Levi says “Yes, I am sick, and not only have I found a doctor – but I found THE doctor, and he CHOSE me”
  + Levi knew the stories of God choosing people like Abraham, Jacob, and David. Levi heard those stories in a Synagogue, but Levi wasn’t in a Synagogue – he was at work.
  + **For the first time in a long time, Levi felt chosen.**
  + **There, in an ordinary place, to an ordinary guy – God moved.**
* **Back to Simon**: Another story very similar time (before in Luke, after in Mt & Mk)
  + **Jesus @ Simon’s home – Luke 4:38-40**
* Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. -Luke 4:38-40
  + - Huge factor in Simon’s personal life – Mother-in-law, lives with them.
    - Peter invites Jesus into his home
    - Town hears, bring sick to Peter’s house – up all night IN THEIR HOME!
    - Simon knew the stories of Naaman being healed. Simon heard those stories in a Synagogue, but Simon wasn’t in a Synagogue, he was at his house.
* **Breakdown of Peter’s Call**
* Small Business owner, employer, husband, but likely not influential
* Knew a lot about Jesus and his message
* Jesus shows up at his work (images of Mana)
* Invites Jesus into his home (images of Naaman)
* Tells Jesus to get away
* Tells Jesus he’s a sinner
* CHOOSES to follow Jesus

*Though the people are very different, the story is very similar:*

* **Breakdown of Levi’s Call**
* Well-paying government job, but likely not influential
* Knew a lot about Jesus and his message
* Jesus shows up at his work (chooses him)
* Invites Jesus into his home
* Tells Jesus to come be a guest of honor
* Jesus tells others that Levi is a sinner – but I still choose him.

CHOOSES to follow Jesus.

# Connection/Climax

* **2 Stories, 2 very different people, but both of them experienced Jesus invade every aspect of their lives.**
  + Never again would Jesus just be a guy that spoke at synagogues.
  + He was PERSONAL, he saw them, showed up at their work, and in their homes.
  + Jesus wanted to be in every aspect, if they said “yes”
  + **Jesus removed the walls that separated Sacred and Secular places in their lives.**
  + Pastor/Author Wade Trimmer: *There is no word for “spiritual” in the Hebrew Old Testament. Why? Is it because they were not a spiritual people? The reason is because in the Hebrew worldview, everything was spiritual. There was no need to distinguish between spiritual/sacred and the secular because no part of their existence was secular.*
* Breakdown of MY call
  + Had good job, good money, not very influential
  + Knew a lot about Jesus and his message
  + Then – my boss bribed me to spend time with Jesus, and that day Jesus showed up at my work and kicked down the barrier between Sacred & Secular.
  + Jesus showed up in a place I didn’t think was Sacred.
  + Wanted me to see him EVERYWHERE
  + Wanted me to choose him EVERYWHERE
    - Chose to pursue ministry, later he confirmed it
* What areas of your life would you consider “secular” or “unspiritual”?
  + Is it your work? Is it your school? Is it your home? Is it with your friends?
* **God is not restricted only to places we see as sacred.**
  + God absolutely can work and move in lifechanging ways in those places.
  + I bet a lot of us in the room agree with that – but it’s one thing to agree with it on a Sunday, and an entirely different thing to believe it on a Friday.
  + Charles Spurgeon: *"To a man who lives unto God nothing is secular, everything is sacred. He puts on his workday garment and it is a vestment to him. He sits down to his meal and it is a sacrament. He goes forth to his labor, and therein exercises the office of the priesthood. His breath is incense and his life a sacrifice. He sleeps on the bosom of God, and lives and moves in the divine presence.  To draw a hard and fast line and say, “This is sacred and this is secular,” is, to my mind, diametrically opposed to the teaching of Christ and the spirit of the gospel."*

# Application

* **When God moves in places we expect Him to, it is powerful. However, when God moves in places we never expected, it is life-changing.**
  + **Bethel** where God gave Jacob a vision
  + **Burning Bush** where God called Moses
  + **Mount Sinai** where God spoke to Moses
  + **Simon’s Living Room** where Jesus healed the sick
  + **Simon’s Boat** where Jesus called Simon to follow Him
  + **Levi’s Tax Booth** where Jesus called Levi to follow Him  
    **Levi’s home** where he revealed that he came not just to heal bodies, but souls
  + For me, the **tailgate of my truck** behind a hog barn
* We must remember – Jesus does not often invade these places in an aggressive way.
  + Didn’t barge onto the boat. Didn’t rip nets from Peter’s hands. Didn’t flip Levi’s booth or grab him by the collar.
  + They both took actions of faithful obedience before Jesus tore down those walls.
* Not Kool-Aid Man – you’ll be waiting for a while.
  + There are places in your life you don’t consider sacred. And if you’re honest – maybe you like it that way.
* Lots of people know Jesus, less know Him personally, even less have experienced him in a Sacred place.
  + But look at the stories of these 12 incredibly young men.
    - Not looking for those who **knew the most** (plenty to choose from)
    - Not looking for those with **most influence** (plenty to choose from)
  + **Jesus chose to build His Church, His Bride – he gave the weight of the salvation to the shoulders of a young, stressed, small business owner. Why?**
  + **Because He was willing to let Jesus be Lord over every single minute, and every single place in His life.**
  + **Jesus didn’t call the wisest, but he did call the most willing.**
* *JESUS WANTS TO DESTROY THE BARRIER THAT DIVIDES SECULAR & SACRED PLACES IN YOUR LIFE.*
* *To true disciples, everything is sacred, nothing is secular.*

*1. Have you ever experienced a move of God in an ordinary place?*

*2. Name a place in your life you consider purely secular – what can you do to remove the wall and let it become sacred ground?*