

# Called

Jesus conquered the desires of the flesh, eyes, and the pride of life. He made it out of the wilderness but couldn't go home. Yet, He came to serve, not to be served. Such a rejection would not result in a rejection of mankind. Yes, He was rejected, but that didn't stop Him from calling.

*Note: I've enjoyed and recommend Mark E. Moore's "The Chronological Life of Christ." Some of my comments can be found in his material by coincidence (he's not the only one making such observations articulated in his material), and other times, I've leaned on his accurate and helpful observations. He's done an excellent job making 1st-century culture and practices available.*

## An Unclean Spirit (31-37)

- Slightly out of order, but Jesus has made Capernaum His home.
- The following two events occur on the Sabbath back to back.
- Jesus is teaching in the synagogue, and the crowd takes note of His authority when teaching.
- The demon-possessed man identifies Jesus as the Holy One of God. Jesus demands silence and casts the demon out. He does not want His identity to be revealed. As James stated, "Even the demons believe and shudder!"
- Jesus has authority and power over dark powers. He is King Jesus!

## Jesus Heals and Teaches (38-44)

- Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law (he was married).
- Reminder about the name Simon: "**Simon who is called Peter** - Simon is his Hebrew name, while Peter is his Greek name (see Matt 4:18; 16:17-18). Elsewhere, biblical writers refer to him by his Aramaic name, Cephas (e.g., John 1:42; 1 Cor 1:12; Gal 2:9)." John D. Barry et al., Faithlife Study Bible (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012, 2016), Mt 10:2.
- He heals many and casts out demons. Demands silence.
- The next morning, Jesus sought to find isolation for prayer.
- Though they wanted Him to stay, His desire was to spread the good news. Jesus preached in the synagogues of Galilee (Judah as a reference to Israel's ethnicity).

## You'll Be Catching Men (5:1-11)

- This probably occurred before Jesus cast out the demon in Capernaum (where we began in 4:31ff).
- Many assume this is Jesus' first encounter, but they've known Jesus for over a year. He'd been following Him for 9 months, but in the last few, he'd been back home working while Jesus preached back home. They are reunited.
- The lake of Gennesaret is synonymous with the Sea of Galilee, the Sea of Tiberias, and Chinneroth). It was pear-shaped, 12 miles from north to south and 7 miles at its widest. It sits in a fish bowl surrounded by 1,000 ft hills. We're very familiar with this lake/sea.
- Imagine seeing Jesus. Sitting in the boat as the crowd fills the shoreline. Pressing in. Listening. Wondering. His words stirred the soul. Your heart is changing. What did He say? It's better left unsaid - it leaves it to the imagination. Now He turns to you. There are some

days that will forever change your life. Peter has witnessed Jesus' miracles for others, but today, he'll experience one of his own." Try again" is essentially what Jesus says. It wouldn't make sense - wrong time of day and you fish in shallow water. This time, the Lord is with them. The catch is too great. The blessing is overflowing. There was indeed a moment when their excitement turned into fear when they realized the boats were sinking. As I contemplated this experience, I realized it's a perfect illustration of biblical fear. When great awe for God meets a fear that will cause you to back away. But this time, Jesus doesn't instruct Peter to back away, but to come closer. When you see Jesus for who He is, the Holy One of God, you become immediately aware of a problem - sin. There's no rejoicing at the financial gain which will bring fleshly security. There's an acute awareness of the spiritual danger. "Get away from me because I'm unholy." Jesus seeks to calm Peter's fear. "Don't worry. I'll make you like Me." We'll see this scene again after Jesus' resurrection. After Peter's implied forgiveness, He will invite Peter to feed and tend His sheep. Jesus is not asking His pupils to come and learn (the customary invitation) but to understand and act.

- Jesus sees you in the crowd. He can change your life by enlightening you about sin while calling You to His holiness and mission. Jesus is telling Peter, "Instead of departing, what if I were to pull you closer? What if I invite you to practice holiness by My side? But, you must leave everything." Brethren, we must be ready to leave our boats behind. Are you?