



# Sermon Outline

WORTHY TO FOLLOW

Luke 5:1-11

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**COME**  
And **SEE**  
FOUNDATION

The  
**CHOSEN**®



# Worthy to Follow

This resource helps you tell the story of Luke 5:1-11. It includes a clip from Season One, Episode 4, to show to the congregation, a suggested script for setting the scene before you show the clip, and a short sermon outline with main teaching points and pastoral prompts.

**Sermon Title:** Worthy to Follow

**Text:** Luke 5:1-11

**Dominant Thought:** Even the seemingly unworthy are worthy to follow Jesus.

## [Download the Episode Clip](#)

### Setting the Scene (suggested script)

It probably won't shock you to hear that one of the first disciples we meet in *The Chosen* is Simon (who is later given a new name – "Peter" – by Jesus). Simon Peter is on just about every page of the Gospels, and he looms large in the life of the early church. In Season One, Episode 4, we get to see Simon Peter's first interaction with Jesus – a scene based on Luke 5:1-11. You might remember the moment, because it's a miraculous one. It's also an incredibly *revealing* moment, in that we catch a glimpse of the kind of person who's invited to follow Jesus. We're going to watch this interaction between Jesus and Simon Peter in just a moment, but let me set the scene: Simon Peter and his fellow fisherman are exhausted from a spectacularly *unsuccessful* night of fishing on the Sea of Galilee, a large body of water in northern Israel. As they make their way to the shore, they spot Jesus, who is teaching a small crowd of people. Once they run ashore, because they're done fishing, Simon Peter and his companions get right to mending any frays or tears in their nets before they head home. But Jesus has other plans...

**\*If you've never introduced your congregation to *The Chosen*, here is an alternative opening to the script above:** *The Chosen* is a television series that allows folks to get to know the authentic Jesus through the eyes of the women and men who followed him. We meet a good number of those followers in Season One. It probably won't shock you to hear that one of the first disciples we meet is Simon (who is later given a new name – "Peter" – by Jesus). Simon Peter is on just about every page of the Gospels, and he looms large in the life of the early church. In Season One, Episode 4...

## Sermon Outline

### *Introduction*

\*Show the clip from *The Chosen*, using the suggested script above to set the scene.

\*After showing the clip, consider reading the text on which it's based – Luke 5:1-11. You could transition from the showing of the clip to the reading of the text by saying something like:

"I mentioned already that this scene is taken right from Luke 5:1-11. I know we just watched Luke 5:1-11; let's listen to it, too." And to transition from the reading of the text to the start of the sermon body, you could circle back to a point made prior to the showing of the clip: "This moment is a miraculous one, but it's also incredibly revealing. We catch a glimpse of the kind of person who's invited to follow Jesus..."

### *Sermon Body*

## **I. The one who is exhausted is worthy to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:5, 8-10)**

**Main Teaching Point:** "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything." You can almost hear the exhaustion in Simon Peter's voice. In fact, in the scene from *The Chosen*, you *could* hear the exhaustion (in the labored speech and the scratchy voice), let alone see it (in the slumped shoulders and hung head). Simon Peter's exhaustion is a physical exhaustion, absolutely. But given what he eventually says to Jesus – "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" – there's a spiritual exhaustion lurking within as well. The scene from *The Chosen* captures this powerfully when Simon Peter points out how long Israel has been waiting for him – the Messiah – to come and save the people of Israel from their sin. That declaration doubles as a confession, really. *We've been waiting so long, that we've been inclined to say, "so long" –*

that is, “farewell” – to the idea that you’d come, Jesus. And while you might think Jesus wouldn’t welcome someone so exhausted – someone flirting with cynicism, even – *he does*. “Follow me,” Jesus says to Simon Peter in the scene we watched. “From now on you will fish for people,” he says in the text. We tend to assume Jesus calls only the spiritually (and even physically) robust to follow him, when he is quite happy for the weary to fall in behind him. Why? Because the exhausted are more ready and willing to receive whatever – and whoever – might provide life.

**Pastoral Prompt:** Surely some of us are exhausted. All of us are exhausted at some point. And not just physically, but spiritually, too. And our exhaustion can stir fear over our worthiness to follow Jesus. Where do you see your exhaustion today? Are you afraid it’s left you unworthy? Hear the words of Jesus: “Do not be afraid.” Hear the words of Jesus: “Follow me.”

## II. The one who has even a little faith is worthy to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:5)

**Main Teaching Point:** “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. *But because you say so, I will let down the nets.*” The second half of Simon Peter’s response to Jesus’s invitation to cast their nets once more isn’t exactly dripping with confidence. In the scene from *The Chosen*, there’s a smirk on Simon Peter’s part that underlines the action. At best he musters up a sort of “I guess we’ll see” attitude. But at least he musters up *something*. There’s some faith in there somewhere – even if it’s just a splash – so the nets are sent splashing once more. And the tiny hint of faith is honored: “they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.” We tend to assume Jesus calls only those filled to full with faith to follow him, when he is quite happy for those with just a splash of faith to fall in behind him. Why? Because those with even a meager faith are still ready and willing to receive the evidence offered up for even more belief.

**Pastoral Prompt:** Surely some of us could admit we have in us just a hint of faith at the moment. All of us do at one moment or another. What has led to a depletion of faith? Can you see that it’s still there, if even just a splash? Where – in what circumstances – is faith needed right now? What are you being called on to do in those circumstances? Do you think you can muster up at a sort of “I guess we’ll see” attitude and see what comes of it? Hear the words of Jesus: “Do not be afraid.” Hear the words of Jesus: “Follow me.”

### III. The one who is far from perfect is worthy to follow Jesus. (Luke 5:8-11)

**Main Teaching Point:** “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” We don’t know what sin stirred this sort of response in Simon Peter. There’s no record of wrongs found in the Scriptures. What we do know is that when Simon Peter came face-to-face with Jesus, the one who had shown himself to be the perfect Son of God, Simon Peter fell to his knees in fear because of his own marked imperfection. “Go away from me!” he cried. “No, no,” Jesus says. “Follow me.” And as you probably well know if you’ve read the Gospels, this isn’t the only time Jesus has to reassure an imperfect Simon Peter that he is worthy to follow him. This is the first time of *many* times to come. We tend to assume Jesus calls only the spiritual giants to follow him, when he is quite happy for those who are far from perfect to fall in behind him. Why? Because the imperfect know they need the saving work of the only perfect one who can provide it.

**Pastoral Prompt:** This isn’t a case where *some* of us could admit we are far from perfect. This is a moment for *all* of us to admit we are far from perfect. And we all struggle to believe that the one who is perfect would make room for such imperfect followers. But he does make room. *He does.* Where do you see the imperfection most pronounced in your life these days? How has it limited you in following Jesus? Have you asked him to “go away”? Hear the words of Jesus: “Do not be afraid.” Hear the words of Jesus: “Follow me.”

#### Conclusion

\*This particular sermon certainly lends itself to a more traditional invitation, but because it’s a sermon that speaks to the first-time believer and long-term believer alike, the congregation could be led through a time of renewing their commitment to following Jesus. Or, according to your denominational or non-denominational practice, in light of the final movement of the sermon focusing on our imperfection – and his power to forgive us and make us perfect in him – the congregation could be led through a celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

