

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany (C) or 5EpiphanyC

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

- people experience presence + power of God
- profound sense of awe
- struck by their unworthiness
- Isaiah 6 – woe is me! I am lost
- Luke 5 – I am a sinful man
- 1 Corinthians 15 – unfit to be an apostle
- God calls not to condemn and terrify
- but to transform + call
- “You will be catching people”
- “by the grace of God”
- Psalm 138 is a little different
  - o lively awareness of majesty of God
  - o knew pervasive influence of God’s glory
  - o at heart of Epiphany = manifestation of God’s power + presence throughout the earth
- fulfillment of God’s cosmic purpose involves human being whom God chooses to encounter
  - o “the Lord will fulfill his purpose for me”

Luke 5, Texts for Preaching year C

- miracles of Jesus benefit human beings
- they meet human needs
- miracle of Luke 5
  - o supplies human need
  - o precipitates awe
  - o puzzlement over Jesus’ identity
- why tell Simon to cast nets again?
- why is the catch a threat?
- not really a call here
- why do they follow Jesus?
- several important Lukan concerns

- (1) Simon obedient to word of Jesus
  - o both “oh come on” warning but does it
  - o we don’t have to understand only obey
- (2) abundance or superabundance
  - o “Honi the Circle Maker”
  - o rain please... no! stop!
  - o another kind of abundance
- (3) use of possessions
  - o radical unconcern for possessions -> connected with discipleship
  - o they leave boats, workers, fish (!) and go
  - o later a theme in Acts
  - o “whoever Jesus is, where he leads, cast aside one’s livelihood”
- (4) presence of God dominates story
  - o sinfulness... which?
  - o he is simply human
  - o power of Jesus = God’s own power
  - o responds with appropriate power
  - o knows the fear of God

#### Luke 5, Fred Craddock, Interpretation

- “Galilean Spring”
- Galilee as welcome relief to unbelief in Judah
- Luke offers six stories of his growing popularity + favor among people
- follows Mark except for calling disciples
- 1<sup>st</sup> four = Day in the life of Jesus
- 5:1-11
  - o easier to understand why they follow
  - o wide fame + popularity
  - o Christ demonstrates a power to which they witness
  - o a transcendent compelling figure
- tied with Isaiah 6
- Peter glimpses power + knowledge of Christ
- falls in grip of his sinfulness
- close to [John 21:1-23](#)
- focus on Simon Peter
- others are hardly mentioned
- catch of fish recalls [1 Kings 17](#), [2 Kings 4](#)
- (prophets as favored resource for Luke)

- ambiguous nature of miracles as prompting faith (or not)
- (1) not chronologically connected to stories I through IV
  - o period of great popularity
- (2) centrality, efficacy of Jesus' word
- (3) fishing (+ shepherding) = lasting images of ministry
- (4) not "why didn't I find fish?"
  - o his skill is not the issue
  - o the issue is his life
  - o his sin does not disqualify
  - o power that makes him fall lifts him up
- (5) why call disciples here in chapter 5?
  - o Jesus' popularity, crowds, he needs helpers
  - o sending the seventy in [10:1-2](#)
  - o "work of Jesus is prophetic of church's successful spread of gospel, also required enlisting more workers ([Acts 11:19-26](#))" (70)