



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: Search and Rescue

Date: January 12, 2025

Scripture Text: Luke 5:17-26

Notes:

Whenever there is a major disaster, i.e. hurricane, wildfire, snowstorms, hail, etc., once it passes, it is typical to assemble a ‘search and rescue’ team to locate those in need of help. These teams are motivated, intentional and act with a sense of urgency. They are laser focused on the need at hand, finding and rescuing those unable to save themselves. Similarly, the church is commissioned to do its own search and rescue. Seeking to find those who are in life’s spiritual storms and rescuing them with the gospel message. Today’s scripture passage is a portrait of a search and rescue mission.

I. The Scene (Luke 5:17)

We find Jesus in the city of Capernaum, located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. He was teaching and some of those in the crowd were Pharisees (those of a legalistic Jewish religious group), and ‘teachers of the law’, also known as scribes. They came from all over the area as far south as Jerusalem. It appears they were not there because they wanted to learn from Jesus’ teachings, but to try and determine who He was. They were not open to hearing the truth Jesus shared, just critiquing what He said.

- Why do you think the Pharisees and teachers of the law approached Jesus’ teachings with critique, skepticism and criticism?
- [Vs. 17](#) tells us Jesus was performing healings. Why wouldn’t that influence them that Jesus may indeed be the Messiah?
- What are ways we may approach a worship service with critique, skepticism, and criticism?
- How should we approach a worship service?
- Why is the condition of our heart an important factor when hearing the word of God preached or taught?

II. The Paralytic (Luke 5:18)

In the crowd were a group of men carrying their friend, a paralytic, trying to get him to Jesus. The paralytic was totally dependent on his friends. If he was going to get to Jesus, it would be because his friends cared enough for him to go to the effort to get him to Jesus.



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Notes:

- As a paralytic, the man was a *social outcast*. It was believed that those who were sick were being punished for sin. How can a church who is intentional about search and rescue engage those who are social outcasts?
- The paralytic was also *physically helpless*, totally dependent on others. Who do you know who needs your help getting to Jesus?
- The paralytic was also *spiritually hopeless*. This is the case for everyone. How can our recognition of others' spiritual hopelessness influence our engagement to them?

III. Faithful Friends (Luke 5:18-20)

The paralytic was blessed to have friends who were so devoted to getting him to Jesus.

- They showed *compassion* for their friend. They had genuine concern for his needs.
 - How have you demonstrated compassion to another?
- They displayed *cooperation*. It took teamwork to get their friend to Jesus. Similarly, the church is all members of the body of Christ. Each uniquely gifted with a purpose within the whole.
 - How are you uniquely gifted within team Jesus?
 - What are ways selfish individualism hinders the ministry of the church?
- The friends were *creative*. They thought outside the box in getting their friend to Jesus.
 - How can you be more creative in ministering to others?
- They were also *committed*. They were not going to let anything stop them from getting the paralytic to Jesus.
 - Why is commitment so important as a Christian?
 - How do you demonstrate how committed you are to Christ?

IV. The Critical (Luke 5:21)

The religious leaders were skeptical of Jesus and His authority.

- How can a critical outlook hinder your relationship with Jesus?
- Who can you be an encouragement to so they may be less critical?

V. The Savior (Luke 5:22-26)

Jesus' miracle authenticated His message. He had the power to forgive sin.

- How can Jesus work through you to help rescue the lost?