

Theme: All Christians are blessed by God to be a blessing to others.

Title: Blessed to be a Blessing

## I. Intro

- A. Ebenezer Scrooge
- B. As Christians we are blessed to be a blessing
- C. Passage is Luke 5:1-11

**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. Luke 5:1-3

## II. Blessed

A. We must draw near to Christ in order to receive blessings from Christ

- 1. Christ is the source of blessing
- 2. Jesus commands his disciples to abide in him for blessing (John 15:1-8)

B. Proof that we are close to Jesus is that we are ready to be used by Him

**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. Luke 5:3

C. It is at the word of Jesus that blessings come

**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." Luke 5:4-5

- 1. In order to receive blessings we must have faith in the word of God
  - 1. As an expert fisherman Simon Peter reasonably questions Jesus command
  - 2. Simon Peter knew Jesus was a miracle worker
    - Luke 4:38-41
    - John 1:43-51
  - 3. Simon Peter had enough faith to be obedient despite his reasonable hesitation
- 2. If we put God to the test his blessings will be more than enough
  - Malachi 3:10-12

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 Luke 5:6-7

## III. To be a Blessing

A. The greatest blessing we can receive is the call to follow Jesus

**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." Luke 5:8-10

3. Simon Peter had to learn the power he saw was not there to destroy him but to deliver him

4. Simon Peter had to learn that Jesus wanted to teach him that he didn't just want to give him a blessing but He wanted to use Simon as a blessing

B. We are ready to be a blessing when we are willing to leave the blessing to following the God of the blessing

**11** And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:11

- Simon was willing to leave the fortune he had made by the blessing of an abundant fish to follow Jesus

## IV. Applying the Word

1. Define what a blessing looks like in this season of life
2. Am I doing all I can to position myself for a blessing?
3. Do I have the faith to receive a blessing?
4. Am I willing to part with my blessing in order to be a blessing?