

Message Notes

Jesus calls his first disciples

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – Numinous Awe

“Course he isn’t safe.”

Today’s Message: Luke 5:1-11

The Setting

Luke 5:1a

What is “the word of God?”

Luke 5:1b

Quitting time!

Luke 5:2

Jesus’ 1st request of Peter

Luke 5:3

The relationship of Jesus and Peter

John 1:35-42

Jesus’ 2nd request of Peter

Luke 5:4

Peter: I will.

Luke 5:5

The miracle catch of fish!

Luke 5:6-7

Peter’s numinous awe

Luke 5:8

Numinous Awe

Exodus 3:4-6, Isaiah 6:1-6, Job 42:3-6

Jesus’ surprising response

Luke 5:9-11

John 21:1-7

Gospel Application – Numinous

Awe in everyday life

Luke 5:1-11

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. 2 He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.” 5 Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Other passages: John 1:35-42, Exodus 3:4-6, Isaiah 6:1-6, Job 42:3-6, John 21:1-7

Numinous Awe

Numinous Awe

from the Latin *numen*,
meaning “divine power.”

Numinous Awe

The question: How do people, in any religion at all, respond when they get near the divine being?

Rudolph Otto, German Sociologist of Religion, *The Idea of the Holy*



Numinous Awe

Numinous Awe is a violent contradiction of fear and fascination, of approach and avoidance.

Rudolph Otto, German Sociologist of Religion, *The Idea of the Holy*



Numinous Awe

"Aslan a man!" said Mr. Beaver sternly. "Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea. Don't you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion, *the* Lion, the great Lion."

"Ooh," said Susan, "I thought he was a man. Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."



Numinous Awe

"That you will, dearie, and make no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver; "if there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.



Numinous Awe

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe.”



The Gospel of
LUKE

The King and His Kingdom
Luke 3:21 to Luke 9:50

Today's Message:
Jesus calls his first disciples
Luke 5:1-11

The Setting

Luke 5:1-11

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What is “the word of God?”

Luke 5:1-11

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Quitting time!

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Jesus' 1st request of Peter

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The relationship of Jesus and Simon Peter

John 1:35-42

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, "What are you seeking?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and you will see."

The relationship of Jesus and Simon Peter

John 1:35-42

So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

Jesus' 2nd request of Peter

Luke 5:1-11

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

5 Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

It was backbreaking work because it involved laying out a great net in a semicircle, encompassing over 100 feet, drawing it in hand-over-hand, then repeating the procedure again and again. It was hard work that [required tremendous strength to] perform. It was a demanding request, to say the least. Jesus was asking a man who had not slept all night, who had spent the night examining empty meshes, to beach the boat, load a thousand pounds of wet nets, row out to deep water, and circle around while setting the net – all at midday!



Besides, what right did Jesus, a *carpenter* from Nazareth, have to ask an expert Galilean fisherman who had spent his life on the lake to do his bidding?

~ R. Kent Hughes, Luke: That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word



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Luke 5:1-11

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6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.



How do you expect Peter to respond?

Peter's numinous awe

Luke 5:1-11

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Jesus' surprising response

Luke 5:1-11

9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

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Peter recognizes the vast difference between Jesus and himself and so recoils in “the terror experienced in the presence of the revelation of the Holy One.”

~ Joel B. Green, *The Gospel of Luke*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1997), 221, 223.



To experience the presence of God means it's not just an abstract idea, nor is it a kind of general numinous feeling. It's a revelation of the character of God.

Always. To experience the presence of God means something about God, a truth about his character (it could be his goodness; it could be his wisdom; it could be his holiness; it could be his love; it could be his mercy) passes by.



It bears down on you. It might have just been a conception, but now it comes down upon you. It bears on your soul, and it melts you.

~ Keller, T. J. (2013). The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive.
New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church.



Exodus 3:4-6

4 When the Lord saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!” And Moses said, “Here I am.” 5 “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” 6 Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

Isaiah 6:1-6

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Isaiah 6:1-6

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

Job 42:1, 3b-6

1 Then Job replied to the Lord... 3b Surely I spoke of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know. 4 "You said, 'Listen now, and I will speak; I will question you, and you shall answer me.' 5 My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. 6 Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes."

Peter's numinous awe

Luke 5:1-11

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

John 21:1-7

1 Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

John 21:1-7

4 Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. 5 He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. 6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

John 21:1-7

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!"



John 21:1-7

7 Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!”

As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

This is a great test of whether your religion has the air of reality to it. If you have a view of God that says, “I feel very close to God when I’m just out on a lake in a boat. I don’t need to come to church. I don’t need to read the Bible. I just feel near to God when I’m with people, when I’m helping people. That’s when I feel near to God,” if when you get near to your God there’s no conflict, there’s no trauma, it’s not the real God.



When you feel the worst, when you've just blown it the worst, when you've just done something you know is wrong, when you feel like the greatest failure, does that sense of failure make you not want to come to church, not want to see Jesus, not want to pray? Do you feel like, "Oh my goodness, how can I even go to him?" or does it make you say, "I want to get as close to him as possible; jump out of the boat, doesn't matter. Swim. Wade. Run. Get right to him"?

~ Keller, T. J. (2013). The Timothy Keller Sermon Archive.
New York City: Redeemer Presbyterian Church.



Numinous Awe

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe.”



Numinous Awe

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe.

But he’s good.”



Gospel of Luke Application:

The question: How do people, in any religion at all, respond when they get near the divine being?

Rudolph Otto, German Sociologist of Religion, *The Idea of the Holy*

