

The Thrill of Leaving the Shallow Waters - Part 1

Luke 5:1-11

Introduction:

1. You've heard the expression, "Playing it safe." If a person likes to "play it safe," it means they avoid taking risks. While there certainly is a time to play it safe, there is also a time to leave our comfort, our safe zone, and venture out.
2. This is especially true in our spiritual walk with Jesus Christ. The Bible is an amazing book about people that took risks for God (Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel and on and on).
3. In our text, Jesus is teaching the Bible to a big crowd of people by the Sea of Galilee (vs. 1). Christ personally talks to Peter (vs. 2-3). Look at verse 4 and notice the words, "*Launch out into the deep.*"
4. It is decision time for Peter. "Do I play it safe or do I do what this man has told me to do? Do I risk wasting time, wasting resources, looking foolish?" Peter took the risk and what a payoff. vs. 5-6
5. By payoff though, I don't mean the fish (Peter ended up leaving those behind). More importantly than a bunch of fish, Peter had his heart changed that day, and he became a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. vs. 11
6. Peter experienced firsthand the thrill of leaving the safe, shallow waters and launching out into the deep with Jesus Christ. How does this apply to us? It applies in multitudes of ways.
 - If many of us were honest, we have been wading around in the shallow waters in our walk and service for Christ – in our prayer lives, our Bible study, our faithfulness, our Christian service, our giving, our witnessing to others; it speaks of shallow-water Christianity.
7. God wants to take you into deeper waters. That is where the action is and where the thrill of seeing God at work is.

8. What will it take from us? Peter is our example today. Let's look at our text. In it there are three key words that allowed Peter to leave the shallow waters and launch out into the deep.

Commitment

1. Seeing Christ do mighty things through us involves a deep commitment. He took Peter from shallow waters to deep waters.
 - “*Thrust out a little from the land.*” vs. 3
 - “*Launch out into the deep.*” vs. 4
 - This would take a lot more of a commitment and belief in Christ from Peter.
2. But the deep water is where you really make a difference and catch the big fishes. If you putter along close to the shore, you only catch small fishes.
3. What am I saying? A deep commitment is such a key to the Christian life and the advancement of our faith to others. It's true throughout the Bible. God is looking to work through and do special things through people with a deep commitment to Him and to His Word.
 - So many times we have the mindset, “I don't mind being in the water (I'm saved), but I'm not going too deep. I don't mind contributing a little, but I am not going to totally commit.”
 - **Illustration:** Cartoon of chicken and pig looking at sign to help feed the needy
 - Why did God use Joshua in such mighty ways? Joshua 24:14-15
 - Why did God use the apostle Paul so mightily? Paul was not afraid to launch out into deep, uncharted waters.
 - Church planting? What is that?
 - Taking the gospel straight to heathen Gentiles apart from Israel and Israel's law system? That is unheard of.
Romans 15:20 (This is deep water fishing – unreached people groups.)
4. Many churches never do much for Christ because they refuse to leave the safe, shallow waters and launch out into the deep. They have a

shallow-water mentality. That culture can take over a church. “We’ve never done it that way before.” A church that does this has no concept of launching out and total commitment, but rather, they say, “Let’s hold back and play it safe.”

- Sometimes it’s the pastor’s fault, but sometimes it’s the people’s fault.
 - Many an enthusiastic pastor has taken a church with new and big plans only to have the church make it clear, “We have never done it that way before and we don’t plan on it.”
 - They fight him every step of the way until he finally leaves.
- The group of Israelites that left Egypt wandered in the wilderness for 40 years, but it wasn’t Moses’ fault. They had a godly leader, but they had a shallow-water mentality.

5. Many believers stay spiritual babies because they have a shallow-water commitment level. They can talk the talk (talk big), but they stay along the shore line and they never do much in their life for Christ because of this.

- They never experience the thrill of being used in service for Christ – “One day I’ll get involved serving.”
- They never experience...
 - The life-change that comes from joining a small group (one day...)
 - The thrill of leading another person to faith in Christ.
 - The amazement of giving generously to God and still having your needs met.
 - The spiritual growth that happens when you get committed to praying and reading His Word every day.
- That word “commitment” is the difference.
 - Instead of a CIA undercover Christian, you become an agent for life-change in bringing others to Christ.
 - Instead of being a pew-sitter, you become a deep-water fisherman helping to bring souls to Christ.

- Instead of tipping God, you become an amazing conduit for God to flow His resources through. These all come through commitment.

In Conclusion:

1. Your life is shaped by the commitments you choose to make.
2. If you look back through your past, I'm sure you can see many commitments that have had a major impact on where you are today.
 - Your spouse and your commitment to share your life with that person.
 - Your kids and your commitment to care for them and raise the well.
 - Your commitment to a certain job, trade, or profession.
3. We all make life-changing decisions and commitments. Even if a person says, "I am not committed to anything in life, nor will I ever be." That is a commitment. Your commitment to be committed to nothing influences and affects your life.
4. Therefore you should be regularly evaluating and refining your commitments. Ask yourself, "Where am I committing my time, my resources, my thoughts, my priorities?"
5. As you refine your commitments, it literally shapes and defines your life and your future.
6. God desires to take you into deep waters spiritually. He wants to do things through you that you never imagined (Ephesians 3:20). But it will take commitment. You have to become sold out and committed to following Jesus Christ.
7. It is the beginning of a new year – 2017. We have almost the entire year ahead of us. There are some commitments that you need to make spiritually, and they will define you and your 2017. Has God brought some of those to mind this morning? Launch out into deep waters with Christ.