

## **The Thrill of Leaving the Shallow Waters - Part 2**

### **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 (part 1).**

### **Obedience**

1. When Christ finished speaking God's Word, He gave Peter some commands to obey. Commitment **was** essential, but Christ made it clear **what** Peter's commitment should entail. He said, "Launch out and let down your net."
2. Peter **heard** God's Word, and now he has a chance to **obey** it.
  - God's Word isn't there to simply give us warm and fuzzy feelings, entertain us, soothe our conscious, or give us academic understanding so we can out-argue people and show them how smart we are.
  - It is given to us to **change our lives** and to **move us to action**. James challenged believers to not simply be hearers of the Word, but doers of the Word. James 1:22-25
3. If Peter doesn't obey Christ by faith, this miracle never happens, and Christ leaves the boat and walks away from Peter, and Peter's life is unchanged.
  - We know that there were mighty things that Christ wanted to do, but He did not do them because of people's unbelief. Matthew 13:58
  - Isn't this a sobering thought? Peter could have missed out on this incredible miracle and life-changing event. In the same way, if **we** don't obey, we will miss out on mighty things that Christ wants to do through us because of our own unbelief and disobedience to God's Word.
4. When Christ asks you to do something, don't hesitate. Do it! You say, "But it's scary; it's deep water." Do it! Launch out into the deep.

5. “The deep” simply represents our obedience to Christ. That is where Christ wanted Peter. That was the place of God’s will for Peter. There is no need to fear that place in your life.
6. Notice that Peter’s obedience was:
  - Prompt – there was no delay in launching out into the deep and letting down the fishing net (I don’t understand it, but okay). Delayed obedience is disobedience.
  - Visible – everybody is watching on the shore and wondering what Peter will do. Christ wants our faith and our service to be public and visible to others. How many people trusted in Christ that day because of Peter? We don’t know, but possibly many. James and John did! Your obedience affects others (as well as your disobedience).
  - Complete – In verse 6 it says, “*When they had this done...*” They did exactly what Christ told them to do.
7. If we are going to launch out into the deep waters and see God do mighty things through us, it will take a heart of obedience.

## Sacrifice

1. Notice in verse 11, “*They forsook all, and followed him.*”
2. These fish would have brought an incredible amount of money to the market, but they gave it all up to serve Jesus Christ. What is the lesson?
3. If we are really going to go deeper in our walk with Christ, we must be given wholly over to Him. Partial commitment to Christ is **not** commitment at all.
  - **Illustration:** You are coaching a team and a player says, “I am going to be partially committed to this team. I’ll be at half of the practices and 75% of the games.” You would say, “You aren’t partially committed; you are uncommitted.”
  - But if a player says, “I am committed to this team. I will be at every practice and be 30 minutes early. I will stay 30 minutes

after practice. I will also practice individually on days when the team does not practice, etc.”

- Now that’s commitment. Why? Because there is sacrifice involved.
4. When we are completely committed to Christ, there will be sacrifice involved. This is true in any area of life.
    - **Illustration:** When you marry somebody and make a commitment, you are sacrificing. It is no longer just about you. You leave your singlehood in order to be one with somebody else.
  5. Any area of your life where you will truly excel, it requires commitment and sacrifice (relationships, sports, job, etc.)
  6. So why do we think we can be committed **to Christ** and not sacrifice? Please understand, there is a thrill and blessing that comes in those deep waters (a payoff), but it doesn’t come without sacrifice and inconvenience.
  7. This wasn’t a convenient time for Peter to loan his boat to Christ and have to get in it and take the boat into deep waters. Think about it.
    - He was busy. He was washing his nets. These would be valid excuses for anyone. But Peter put Christ and Christ’s agenda first, ahead of his own.
    - He was tired. He had toiled all night. In spite of his own weariness, he took care of Christ’s need.
    - He was discouraged. He had caught nothing. I’m sure he wasn’t in the best of moods when Christ asked for his help. He didn’t allow his discouraging circumstances to keep him from serving Christ.
      - What a lesson for us. It is easy to smile and serve when everything is going our way, but are we ready to serve when things aren’t going well?
  8. Opportunities to serve Christ are not always convenient. Deep-water commitment and deep-water obedience will probably entail deep-water sacrifice. But isn’t that what love is all about?

## **In Conclusion:**

1. God desires to take each of us into deeper waters this year. He wants to take our church into deeper waters.
2. We learned from this text what it will take to leave our shallow-water mentality and launch out into deep waters.
  - Commitment
  - Obedience
  - Sacrifice
3. Jesus Christ lived on this earth as a man and accomplished so much. He impacted so many lives and is still impacting lives today. Why?
4. Christ was totally **committed** to making a way of salvation for us. He therefore was totally **obedient** to the Father's plan of salvation, and **sacrificed** His very life on the cross to make salvation possible for us. He loved us and gave Himself for us.
5. Suffering and sacrifice are part of a deep-water faith, but it is a privilege to sacrifice for Christ.
  - Jim Elliot once said, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose."
6. I want you to pray hard this week – "Lord, please take me into deeper waters with you. Show me the areas where I need to be more committed, more obedient, and more willing to sacrifice for you."