

## Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

### Part 9: Launching into the Deep

**Big Question:** How can I see God move greater in my walk and in my witness?

**The Setting for this passage:** "Lake of Gennesaret. I.e., the Sea of Galilee, sometimes also called the Sea of Tiberius ([John 6:1: 21:1](#)). It is actually a large freshwater lake, over 690 ft. below sea level, and serves as the main source of water and commerce for the Galilee region."<sup>1</sup>

**What kind of fishing is this?** Net fishing, not line fishing!

#### Luke 5:1-11 (NKJV); *Four Fishermen Called as Disciples*

<sup>5</sup> So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup> and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

<sup>4</sup> When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

<sup>5</sup> But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. <sup>7</sup> So 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.

<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

<sup>9</sup> For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." <sup>11</sup> So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Let's jump into the message:

**Launching into the Deep.** [3 Strategies](#) for Greater Kingdom Impact, followed by [4 results](#) of going deep:

1. If you want to have a greater impact, you must be \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ what others aren't willing to do (v. 1-3).

- You must have an insatiable appetite for God's Word (v. 1).
- Become creative in your approach to reaching people.

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<sup>1</sup> Quote from MacArthur Study Bible.

**Scripture Insight:** 5:3 *put out a little from shore.* Pushing out from shore provided sufficient distance for Jesus' voice to carry. Galilee had many helpful acoustic settings, including a cove near Capernaum that could allow one's voice to carry to vast numbers of hearers.<sup>2</sup>

How could we be more creative at Arden First to reach people? Here are some ideas that we are working on now:

- Free car wash with a hot dog cookout.
- Buying everyone coffee for an hour at a local coffee shop.
- Doing a free health clinic to meet the physical needs of those in our area while also sharing Christ with them.

*What ideas do you have? Will you share them with us?*

2. **If you want to have a greater impact, you must launch OUT into the \_\_\_\_\_ even when others are staying \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4).**

- Launch out into the deep-Jesus wanted the fishermen to go deeper. They had tried fishing in the shallow water and they caught nothing all night.

**Principles of launching into the deep:**

→If you do what you have always done, you will get what you've always got!

→If you want to have a different result, you will need to try a different approach.

→Shallow efforts produce shallow results.

→Launching into the deep multiplies the possibilities.

→Jesus loves you in the shallows, but He never leaves you in the shallows.

→Every adventure in the deep begins with one more step out of the shallows!

- Let down your nets-Every fisherman has a net, but you won't catch anything unless you use what you have!
- For a catch-Just as Jesus wanted the fishermen to catch fish, you better believe that He wants you and me to reach people.

3. **If you want to have a greater impact, you must value God's \_\_\_\_\_ above your own \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 5).**

- Notice that Peter's experience did not line up with what Jesus was asking him to do.

**Scripture Insight:** Was this the first time Jesus met Peter?

Probably not. John recounts an earlier episode in which Peter's brother Andrew brought Peter to meet Jesus, apparently for the first time ([Jn 1:40-42](#)). Matthew and Mark also record what appears to have been an earlier encounter when Jesus called Peter and Andrew to be his disciples

<sup>2</sup> Quote from NIV Cultural Background Study Bible.

while they were fishing ([Mt 4:18-22](#); [Mk 1:16-20](#)). Apparently, the call of these disciples occurred gradually and in stages.<sup>3</sup>

- As Christians we need to get back to God's Word as our only and ultimate source of absolute authority.

**7 Sources of Authority that can often prove to be unreliable:**

- 1) E \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) T \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) E \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) I \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) R \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) S \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) C \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 64:6 (NLT): We are all infected and impure with sin. When we display our righteous deeds, they are nothing but filthy rags. Like autumn leaves, we wither and fall, and our sins sweep us away like the wind.

*Why is Scripture our **only** source of **absolute** authority?* Scripture are the very words of God. The Holy Spirit inspired human authors who wrote the very words of God express through their own intellect and personality, without any error or falsehood.

2 Timothy 3:16: All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Peter 1:21: For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.

- Nevertheless, at Your word, I will let down the net!

**Scripture Insight:** 5:5 *all night*. Although fishermen also worked during the day and were believed able to endure the hot sun, many felt it was easier to catch fish before sunrise. (During the day many fish stayed in the depths to avoid the hot sun.) *nets*. Fishermen often cast a circular net of mesh, about 15 feet (4.5 meters) wide, into the water to catch fish; lead sinkers pulled most of the net down so it did not all float, and once it had trapped fish it could be hauled in. This method worked in shallow water, but for deeper water fishermen used a dragnet (see note on [Mt 13:47](#)).<sup>4</sup>

Hebrews 4:12: For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

<sup>3</sup> Quote from NIV Quest Study Bible.

<sup>4</sup> Quote from NIV Cultural Background Study Bible.

#### *4 Life shattering, Kingdom Expanding Results of Launching into the Deep:*

1. Your \_\_\_\_\_ will catch you by surprise (v. 6).
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ will be so great, that you will need to recruit others in get in on the blessing (v. 6-7).

#### Are you engaged in the mission of God in the local church?

- Praying
- Growing
- Serving
- Giving
- Sharing

3. Others will encounter God's \_\_\_\_\_ which can forever rewrite their \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8).
4. God will change the trajectory of your life and the lives of all those who are willing to forsake the \_\_\_\_\_ and who are willing to launch into the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 9-11).

**Take Home Truth:** Don't wallow in the shallows because God has something greater for you if you are willing to LAUNCH into the deep!

**Action Step:** Go deeper with God this week. Here are some practical helps:

- **Read**—Read one chapter a day from God's Word. Where? Luke is a good starting place!
- **Watch**—Check out RightNowMedia--
  - The Grave Robber by Mark Batterson.
  - Got kids/grandkids? Check out Easter Week - Jelly Telly Devotional
- **Invite**—Make a commitment to invite 3 people to church this Sunday and let them know about Easter that is coming up!

**Preview for next Sunday:** "Touching the Untouchables" from Luke 5:12-16.