

## LET DOWN YOUR NETS (NBC Sept. 2010)

Luke 5:1-11

There are times when God challenges us to “let down our nets,” to release our faith in an area where we have labored, but have seen no results. Jesus challenges Peter to set aside his human reasoning; and believe in His word. In the same sense the Lord calls us to place our trust in His word, that we might behold His power and faithfulness. Three things are required to let down your nets; *faith*, *abandoning the past*, and *surrender*.

(v.1-3) After teaching the people Jesus commands Peter to do something which seemed very strange to him; “*launch out into the deep...*” This is where the “lesson” begins; in order for us to *launch out* into a deeper understanding of God’s *power* and *grace* we need two things:

**I. Faith.** Jesus is asking Peter to abandon his “professional” instincts and to do something contrary to human logic. It’s hard enough to trust God with the “unknown,” but to trust Him with our “profession” *what we do know*, is even more difficult. Peter had been fishing “all night” and had caught “nothing.” **He knew fishing.** When Jesus commanded him to “launch out” he *probably* thought; “*Jesus you stick to healing, I’ll take care of the fishing department.*” But the Lord wanted to take his faith “deeper,” to show him things which cannot be found along the *shallow shores* of “unbelief.”

**Notice:** Peter’s deliverance came as a result of what he heard. (**Romans 10:17**) **So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.** Peter was a “captive audience” in the boat. His empty nets had brought him to the place of “**Nevertheless**” (v.5b); sometimes only when we’ve exhausted all our efforts are we willing to “listen” to God’s word. **After the teaching, his faith is now being “tested.”** It’s not enough to “hear” a sermon; God will

always “test” what we’ve heard that our faith might be “genuine.” (1 Peter 1:7) “...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” Once we’ve heard the word our response should be to “*Launch out*” upon what we have heard.

**II. Abandon past experiences.** Fear of what happened yesterday keeps many people close to the shores of unbelief. A failed *marriage, ministry, business, etc.* keeps us hugging the shore line; but the word of God will **not** let us stay there. Peter’s logic protested; “*Why try something again which has produced absolutely nothing.*” For us we might say: “*Why should I pray?*” “*Why love?*” “*Why forgive?*” **Stop painting your present situation and others with brushes from the past.**

Satan uses our past to *paralyze* our future. Peter’s “empty net,” represented a point of “failure.” But Jesus was trying to teach Peter and us today, that; **Past failures can become a pre-requisite to God’s divine blessing!** if we will trust in His ability and **not** our own. Abraham (Romans 4:20-21) **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.** “God I can’t *see it*, my past *denies it*, but You have *spoken it*, therefore, I will “let down” my nets, *trusting* in Your “ability.” “*Master we toiled all night...nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.*” (v.5). This is where the *past* ends and our *future* “begins.”

**APPLICATION: two things: (1) God always exceeds our expectations.** (v.6, 7). Peter’s vision was limited to “catching fish,” but when he launched into the “deep,” he came to realize God had called him to “**catch men!**” (v.10b). The ministry God has for you *tomorrow* is being birthed within you today. Don’t limit God by safely hugging the shore line of unbelief; “**But what if I make a mistake.**” **God’s grace is sufficient for our mistakes!**

**(2) Surrender.** (v.11). *“They forsook all!”* They forsook their fishing business, the *very* thing they once “relied” upon. God is not calling us to “quit” our jobs tomorrow; but their action is reflective of our need, *to forsake all which hinders us from “launching out” into the depths of God’s heart!* **(Hebrew 12:1)** *“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us...”* Peter *surrenders all* in (v.8) when his “doubts” *intersect* with the “immeasurable grace” of God.

**CONCLUSION:** “Floaties-Hawaii” God’s faithfulness and grace enables us to dream beyond our limited abilities. “You no longer have to fear the “deep” because the Lord is there!” **(Philippians 4:13)** *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.* “You no longer have to fear the “deep” because I’ll be there!”