

THE DEEP



LUKE 5:1-11

The Deep

- Sharon Jaynes sharing what she overheard when a Dad was trying to coax his small daughter to jump into the deeper end of pool with him there
 - “Come on honey, you can do it. I’m right here.”
 - “But I’m scared. You might not catch me.” – “Don’t be afraid. I’m right here.”
 - “But you might move!” – “I’m not going to move. I’m not going to let anything happen to you.”
 - The bantering went on for 15 minutes when finally, she jumped in receiving great applause then swam like a fish the rest of the day

The Deep

- I wonder if God has this discussion with us at times when he leads us to the deep end of faith
 - Moses had this conversation with God on back side of mountain
 - Jeremiah, Gideon, Paul as a pardoned persecutor
- We ask ourselves the question, “Who am I that God would choose me?”
 - **Psalm 8:4 NIV**, “What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?”

The Deep

- Or maybe, “Who am I that you are mindful of **me**, that you take care of **me**?”
 - **1st Corinthians 2:9 NLT**, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him.”
- These wonderful blessing are found in the deep end of faith
- This is where Jesus is calling Peter this morning

The Deep

- **Luke 5:1-11 NLT**, 1 One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2 He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon (*Peter*), its owner, to push it out into the water. So, he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there.
- We have here a normally successful yet very frustrated commercial fisherman

The Deep

- We have here a normally successful yet very frustrated commercial fisherman
 - He knew where the fish should have been but nothing
 - He knew their habits but nothing
 - He was tired, discouraged, wondering if something has changed
 - They still had to clean their nets even without any income
 - I wonder if there was stress with no income for the night
 - Their nets were empty, I wonder about their lives

The Deep

- And then Peter was asked to set his work aside (*will I ever get to bed*), get in his boat (*which has already been pulled up on shore for the day*) with Jesus and push out so the crowd could hear Jesus teach (*how long is this going to take*)
- Can you relate with Peter this morning?

The Deep

- **Luke 5:1-11 NLT**, 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish.” 5 “Master,” Simon replied, “we worked hard all last night and didn’t catch a thing. But if you say so, I’ll let the nets down again.” *(which means I’m going to have to clean them again)* 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.

The Deep

- “Oh great, here is a Rabbi/Carpenter telling me how to catch fish”
 - “I just got most of my nets clean and will have to do it again for nothing”
 - “Fish don’t just appear this fast in this lake”
 - “Everyone is watching”
 - “I will try but I know it will never work”
 - Today we might say, “Oh great, here is Jesus telling me how to live my life”

The Deep

- Peter has a respect for Jesus as a Rabbi sent by God
 - Jesus is special but not a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee
 - “This is not my idea and I want everyone to know, but since you say let the nets down again, I will, don’t want to, but will”
 - “Jesus is going to embarrass himself this time and me with Him. If He would just listen to me.”

The Deep

- Peter pushed out into the deep end, let down his nets expecting nothing
 - And as Gomer Pyle would say, “Surprise, Surprise, Surprise”
 - Peter was not ready for a catch so large that the boats were on the verge of sinking
 - There had never been a catch like this by anyone
 - Peter was so busy he didn’t have time to think, just reacted
 - But in his mind, a question formed, “How, Where did they come from?”

The Deep

- **Luke 5:1-11 NLT**, 8 When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, “Oh, Lord, please leave me—I’m such a sinful man.” 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.
- How would you respond to Jesus if He had just blessed you with a great sum of money or a great blessing in some important area of your lives?
 - Yes, Yes, Yes...Thank you Jesus, I’m am so blessed, Keep it up Jesus

The Deep

- Peter realized he had just been a part of the impossible out in the deep end
 - This would not have happened if he had stayed in the shallows where it was safe
 - The number of fish slammed Peter to his core as he identified it as a miracle beyond human capability
 - Jesus is not just a Rabbi, Carpenter
 - He is so much more

The Deep

- Peter gives Jesus a truthful response, “I’m such a sinful man”
 - “I don’t deserve to be in Your presence”
 - “I will tarnish your image Jesus if You stay close to me”
 - “There is nothing you can do for me Jesus so please leave me in my sinfulness”

The Deep

- **Luke 5:1-11 NLT**, Jesus replied to Simon, “Don’t be afraid! From now on you’ll be fishing for people!” 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.
- Jesus’ initial response to Peter’s truthful about himself was, “Don’t be afraid.”
 - “Don’t be afraid of Me, Peter”
 - “Don’t be afraid of the deep, Peter”
 - “Come close to me and let’s fish for people”
 - Immediately the left everything and followed Jesus
 - Jesus became their Rabbi, and they became His disciples

The Deep

- It seems like most Christians today were saved with a glorious act of grace, with an initial spurt of growth, then they tread water until they are resurrected with another glorious act of grace
 - We miss the glory between salvation and resurrection because the glory is in the deep end of faith and the “what ifs” keeps us in the shallows
 - **Ephesians 2:10 NIV**, “10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” *(in the deep end)*

The Deep

- God calls ordinary people
 - Jesus was not put off by their unworthiness
 - He didn't instruct them to get their lives together then come back to Him
 - God calls imperfect people to do His work

The Deep

- How often have we resisted Jesus' claim on our lives because what He is calling us to do is too crazy, too impractical according to my standards
- How often do we avoid putting our nets into the deep end because we are convinced that we might not see any results?
- Do we force Him to drag us to the deep end kicking and screaming?

The Deep

- What might it mean for us to go deep sea fishing with Jesus?
 - To simply trust His leadership outside of our comfort zone
 - To let go of our certainties, our wisdom, our strength, our need for recognition
 - To have our lives radically reoriented toward Christ rather than ourselves

The Deep

- Did you notice, Jesus was in the boat with them, not standing on the safe bank shouting instruction
 - God was with Moses in his weakness, Jeremiah in his youth, Gideon in his fear
 - He will always remain with us, close, in the deep end of faith
 - Jesus' word to Peter is also a word to us when calling us to the deep end of faith, "Do not be afraid."
 - He did not row out to the deep for them, nor lower the nets for them

The Deep

- Expect difficulties and storms in the deep
 - Expect to be misunderstood in the deep
 - Expect your heart to be broken in the deep
 - Expect “*just in time*” answers and direction in the deep
 - Expect to be matured in your faith to the point you know God in the deep
 - Expect to become experts in all the Fruit of the Spirit in the deep
 - Expect to experience God in ways you never could imagine in the deep

The Deep

- Jesus gave Peter a taste of everything he thought he wanted, and he found it lacking compared to the glory of Jesus Christ revealed in the deep end of faith
- I don't know what Heaven will be like, but I wonder if there will be opportunities to tell others what God did in and through our lives
 - Imagine Lazarus, Ruth, Noah, Jonah....
 - But if we are sitting around a campfire telling stories I want to have some to tell of God's wonderful working in my life in the deep end of faith

THE DEEP



LUKE 5:1-11