

“Launch Out And Let Down”

⇒ **Text:** Luke 5:1-11

⇒ **Intro:**

- o What we have before us in our passage is a wonderful illustration on the results of being totally obedient to Christ.
- o In other words, following exactly what the Lord has told you to do without putting your own spin to it.

⇒ **V.1, “And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,”**

- o The crowd on shore had become so great to hear Jesus speak that Jesus was literally running out of room on shore to speak.
- o I believe that Jesus was pushed by the swell of the crowd to the very water’s edge.

⇒ **V. 2, “And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.”**

- o Our Lord first comes upon two ships that are vacant.

⇒ **V. 3, “And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.”**

- o We see that one of the ships that was vacant belong to Simon.
- o I believe that Jesus knew that He could count on Simon and gets in Simon’s ship.

o While in the ship our Lord asks Simon to thrust out a little from shore.

- In other words a distance were Jesus could be heard by the crowd on the shore but not be thronged by the crowd.

o Our Lord teaches the crowd for a while from the boat.

⇒ **V. 4, “Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon,**

Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.”

o When Jesus finished teaching the crowd He turns and gives Simon a direct command.

- The command is very clear and precise.
- We must remember that God is God of order.
 - He does everything decently and in order.
- When he gives us a command it is very clear with no gray areas.
- It is plain and simple with no wiggle room or to be subject to our own private interpretation.

o Jesus’ command to Simon is basically **“Launch Out and Let Down”**

o Notice with me how clear and precise Jesus’ command is –

- Jesus in His command provides -
 - **The direction** – “Launch **Out**” further away from the shore.
 - **The destination or place** – “the **deep**”
 - **The duty or task** – “**let down your nets**”
 - **The design or purpose** – “for a **draught**”

⇒ **V. 5, “And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”**

- o Notice with me Simon’s response –
 - We have to remember that Simon Peter had been a commercial fisherman all his life.
 - He knew everything there was to know about fishing and more.
 - He knew where to catch the big ones.
 - He knew all the good fishing holes.
 - After all if he didn’t then he would not have been in business.
- o I believe Simon’s initial reaction to the Lord’s command is one of questioning.
 - Simon because he was an experienced fisherman reaction to the Lord’s command is “Do you really want to do this.”
 - “I believe we would be wasting our time.”
 - Of course Simon was basing this on fact.
 - The fact he had “toiled all the night, and have taken nothing”
 - In other words Simon was saying “I’ve been there and done that, what’s the use.”
 - I believe Simon’s expectation was that the results would still be the same, “no catch.”
- o Often times our Lord will command us to do something despite what the facts tells or what our experience has been.

- He wants us to follow his command based on faith.
 - Remember, as Christians we are to walk by faith and not be sight.
- o Sometimes, the Lord wants us to leave our comfort zone and go strictly on faith.
- Faith in what the Word of God says.
 - Remember, the Lord will never command you and I to do anything counter to the His Word.
- o You see the problem with many a Christian is that Jesus is in their ship and has asked them to launch out into the deep.
- But they are still hugging the shore.
 - They won't leave the safety of the shore until they have everything figured out.
 - Until, they are absolutely sure that they won't lose anything, especially their billfold.
 - They won't leave the safety of the shore unless they are covered with a 100 life preservers.
 - You see we have many a Christian who are still tied to the dock.
 - Their ship has a rope tied to it that will only allow it to go out so far from the shore.
 - So if any storm comes up they can be pulled in.
 - You see many a Christian have already made up their mind how far they will go for the Lord.

- Maybe you are one of them – Blessed God!!!
- o Let get back to Simon’s response to the Lord’s command.
 - **“nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.”**
 - In others words, Simon said “Despite my experience as a commercial fisherman and the fact the fishing hole is dry, I’m going to obey Your command anyway.”
- ⇒ **Vs. 6-7**, Notice with me the results of Simon’s Obedience to Jesus’ Command.
- ⇒ **V. 6**, **“And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.”**
 - o The catch was so great that the weight of the fishes broke the net.
- ⇒ **Vs. 7**, **“And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.”**
 - o The catch was so great Simon needed the help of another ship to bring the catch to shore.
 - o The weight of catch was so great that both ships were weighted down to the point of sinking.
- ⇒ We see the great results of launching out and letting down your nets.
 - o If you are obedient to the commands of Christ than you will experience the blessings of the Lord in this life and the life to come.
 - o Many of you are missing out on the blessings of God because you refuse to launch out into the deep and let down your nets!!!

- o You refuse to be obedient to the Lord's command.
- ⇒ **Vs. 8-11**, Notice with me the reaction to the great catch of fish.
- ⇒ **V. 8** – First Simon's reaction
 - o **“When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.”**
 - Simon Peter sees how sinful he was for even questioning and doubting the Lord's command.
 - Everyone one of us here today if they are honest can relate to how Simon Peter is feeling.
- ⇒ **V. 9**, - Second Simon Peter and those who with him.
 - o **“For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:”**
 - Simon and those with him could not get over the great catch of fish.
 - They probably never had caught or even seen such a great number of fish in their lives.
 - God will always amaze us what He will do if we will just be obedient to His commands.
- ⇒ **V. 10**, - Third Simon Peter's partners, James and John.
 - o **“And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon...”**

- James and John who were Simon's partners in the commercial fishing business were equally amazed and astonished at the great catch of fish.

⇒ **V. 10**, - The Lord's Promise.

○ **“Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.”**

- Jesus is telling Simon not to fear and be overwhelmed by the great catch of fish.
- I believe the Lord is also telling Simon and the others if “you will be obedient to me, then I will meet your needs.”
 - Jesus had just showed them that.
 - As a result they could be totally devoted and place all their time energy catching men or winning precious souls.
- I believe the same promise applies to you and I today.
 - If we will seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness then God will take care of our material needs.
 - If we will concentrate on the spiritual things then he will take care of the physical things.

⇒ **V. 11**, - The Response of the Christian When He Has Been totally obedient to God and Experienced the Results that Obedience.

○ **“And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”**

- o Just as Simon Peter and the others did then you will sell out to God, lock, stock and barrel.
- o You will put everything you own on the line for the Lord's use.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- o My friend if have not won't you leave the safety of the shore with Jesus in your ship.
 - And obey His command to "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets."
 - And watch in the amazement as the Simon Peter and the others did how the Lord will work in your life.
- o My friend if you are here today and Jesus is not in your ship.
 - Won't you invite into your ship, into heart.
 - By repenting of your sins.
 - Ask God for the forgiveness of your sins.
 - And pray and receive Christ by faith into your heart.
 - Believing He died for your sins, was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures.
 - For the sole purpose of paying for sins, keeping you from the flames of hell and securing for you a home in heaven.