



ALL SAINTS
PRESBYTERIAN

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FOR ALL SAINTS SMALL GROUPS

“Out into the Deep” | Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt | February 10, 2019

Luke 5:1-11

1 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God.

2 He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets.

3 He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”

5 Simon answered, “Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”

6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!”

9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,

10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”

11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Intro Question

This is our 5th Sunday of epiphany. People are seeing Jesus (an unveiling) as never before and their lives are revolutionized. Here, Peter finds true, new life.

Background

Tim wants us to think about two key points as we read over Luke 5: Peter acting on Jesus' word and Jesus putting out into the Deep.

Here we have Jesus putting out a little further from land. Why? The crowds were growing and pushing him further toward the sea so he decided to get into a boat so more could hear him. He did this because he practices xenophilia. That is, hospitality. Do we care for making room for others? Jesus then chooses Peter's boat without permission...he is after Peter. He is drawing Peter out...from work, from Peter himself, from the shore. Peter goes begrudgingly. He essentially says “I don't want to. We toiled all night.” And he knows better than Jesus because he is a fisherman and Jesus is a carpenter. And Peter also doesn't want to be embarrassed as they fished all night and got nothing. What happens if they pull up fish in front of this large crowd. He responds with objection (toiled) and capitulates by acting on Jesus' word.

When we get put out into the Deep, we lose control and security. We are completely lost. The weight of his word and what he reveals to us can make our bodies croak and groan. It can make us want to be as close and as far from him at the same time. You see this in our Old Testament reading from Isaiah where he is in awe of the seraphim and all that is around him, he cannot move. And at the same time he wants to flee because he is a sinner and declares he has unclean lips. He is exhilarated and terrified. You can feel like you are being torn in two directions.

Read Luke 5:1-11 aloud.

Discuss:

- 1.) Are you doing anything *solely* based on his word?
- 2.) Sometimes doing things *solely* on his word can be embarrassing. Do you have any examples in your own life? If not, what could be one? Tim challenges us that if we aren't, we aren't surrendering.
- 3.) Have you ever been drawn near to Jesus and at the same time wanted to flee? Been torn in two directions?
- 4.) Have you ever been exhilarated and terrified?
- 5.) What would putting out into the Deep look like for you? Think of one example. What is holding you back?

Conclusion/Application

Tim leaves us with a warning. He says that if we are trying use religion to be and feel better, be more moral, and to use it to help us through tough times and decisions, that it might help for a little while. But eventually, we will feel worse. And the only way forward is to put out into the Deep. THIS is where change is found. Jesus went into the Deep for us. God tore him into two. But in Jesus' depth, we find intimacy and truth. Peter jumps into the waters. Believe, obey and do not fear Jesus' depth. His love is deeper than death and deeper than our sin, anger, whatever we are afraid to bring to him so put out into his deep waters.