

## LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP

Text: Luke 5:4-6

INTRO: Just as Jesus wanted to help Simon Peter long ago, He is also interested in our needs -- but like Peter, we must be willing to obey. We must be willing to launch out into the deep. Success for us demands deeper involvement in our own actions.

### I. PERHAPS WE NEED MORE DEPTH OF PERSONAL DEVOTION.

#### A. In our personal, private prayers.

1. More time, 1 Thess 5:17
2. More thought. "Now I lay me down to sleep" may be all right for a small child but mature Christians should put personal thought into their prayer. "Prayer list." Thanksgiving.
3. More faith. MT 21:22; James 1:6 ask in faith

#### B. Our personal Bible study. The Bible is God's word. We need to harness our time; set goals; have a purpose in our study. Special subjects, projects, etc.

NOTE: Bring your own Bible to Bible classes. Become familiar with it. To come to class without your Bible is like going hunting without a weapon, or golfing without your golf clubs, etc.

### II. SOME OF US NEED TO SEEK A DEEPER COMMITMENT TO PUBLIC WORSHIP.

#### A. More commitment to regular attendance & to being on time Psalm 122:1

1. When I became a Christian I decided to be at all services -- nearly 40 years ago.
2. When I worked for a printing co. I wouldn't have lasted long if I just went to work when there wasn't anywhere else to go, if I dragged in late

every day. My boss wouldn't have liked that & I wouldn't blame him. I'm not sure God likes it any better.

B. Many need a deeper commitment to participation in the public worship services. SING, BIBLE READINGS, L.S., Prayer, Giving.

III. MOST OF US NEED A DEEPER INVOLVEMENT IN PERSONAL EVANGELISM. We have friends, family members, co-workers, etc., we could try to influence with the gospel.

NOTE: Jesus turned fishermen into fishers of men, MT 4:18-20. Most of us are more like some folks I used to see in Louisiana fishing in the bar ditches. I never saw them catch anything. I suppose they must have caught something occasionally. But there they were, fishing in the bar ditch within 20 miles of the Red River. They needed to launch out into deeper water.

A. The basic purpose of church leadership is to train & motivate church members to do the work God gave the church to do.

READ EPHESIANS 4:11-12. Acts 2:42; 6:1-4; 8:1, 4

B. We need more & deeper faith & less doubt. "It won't work" & "I'd only fail" **won't get it!** The gospel is still God's power to save. It is still the seed of the kingdom. We need to sow it.

IV. PERHAPS AS A CONGREGATION WE NEED TO MAKE MORE COMMITMENT IN THE THINGS WE DO COLLECTIVELY. Bible classes, worship assemblies, etc.

A. Gospel meetings.

B. Take more interest, show more concern for providing & maintaining the facilities to reach out into the community & teach those around us who are dying without the

gospel.

- C. Faith requires us to step beyond what we can see with physical eyes. “I just can’t see this man or woman as a Christian” (Philippian jailer, Zaccheus). **TEACH HIM; TEACH HER.** Step out in faith. Launch out.

Exton, PA, January 4, 11, 1987

Jonestown, TX, September 13, 1987 (meeting)

La Porte, TX, May 3, 1992 (meeting)

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 5, 1998