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Monthly Newsletter

I HAVE BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT

BUT NEVERTHELESS! (Luke 5:1-11)

Dear Chosen One:

Jesus used every opportunity while He was on earth to preach the Gospel. He was always about His Father's business. The Bible tells us that Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret and there was a crowd of people listening to Him preach the gospel, probably with many of them pushing and trying to get closer to him. Jesus, as he was looking around, saw two boats, one of which belonged to Simon Peter. Peter was a fisherman and he and his partners had been out fishing all night but had caught nothing.

Fishing was these men's livelihood and yet they had nothing to show for their night's work. Most fishermen worked at night because the fish came out at night, but this night their efforts had been hopeless. There are seasons when our hard work will not be productive. Every businessperson knows that not every day of the week's hard work will be profitable.

Some stores open all day and do not make any sales. Some cabdrivers drive around all day and do not pick up any passengers. It may sound foolish, but this is true. Peter and his partners did not catch any fish even though they worked all night. Some pastors preach good sermons in front of large crowds and after the message no one walks down the aisle for the salvation call to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Presently, some of you are experiencing this predicament but from a different perspective. Perhaps you have been working overtime but you still don't have enough money to pay off your debts, for example. The problem could be the cost of your choice of lifestyle. Or, the tax

collector is taking your money, whatever it is - your hard work is fruitless.

After Jesus finished speaking to the crowd and after having accomplished the will of His Father, He turned his attention to Simon Peter. He said, **“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”** Peter responded, **“Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.”** Peter was actually telling Jesus, **“I've been there and done that, but I will do it again because You told me to.”**

When Jesus tells you to do something that you have done before - your response should be—yes Lord! Not, I have done it before, and I was unsuccessful.

Peter was a skilled fisherman and sometimes people who are experts in certain fields feel that they know what to do, how to do it and when it should be done, and they rarely listen to advice from people who are not in the same profession. Jesus was **not** a fisherman. Peter was an expert fisherman, but yet, he was fishing in shallow water. However, when Jesus is on your boat or in your presence, He is the only expert.

Peter obeyed Jesus' voice and let down his nets into the deep water. The Bible says they caught so many fish that their nets began to break. It was an overflow blessing and Peter called his partners to come with their boats to help. Even their boats could not handle this huge blessing. The scripture states that the boats started to sink. Wow!

People who are willing to obey God and launch out into the deep will receive deeper revelations, gain spiritual discernment and insight.

They will learn how to demonstrate God's healing power and have access to fresh revelations. Right now, Jesus is saying to some of you, I know you have been pastoring this church for many years, but you have nothing to show, still **launch out into the deep**. I recognize that you have been a member of this congregation all your life and you have nothing to show, launch **out into the deep**.

I see you have all the qualifications for the job position, and you have nothing to show, **launch out into the deep**. I am aware that you have been married for many years and you have nothing to show, **launch out into the deep**. Yes, you have all the worldly possessions, and your life is still empty because you have nothing to show, **launch out into the deep**. It may feel as if you have wasted your time, but you will have to move from your comfort zone and **launch out into the deep**.

Oftentimes, some people feel unworthy when Jesus shows up to bless them. Their guilty conscience convicts them about their past sin and the devil reminds them of those things that God has already forgiven. The Bible says, "**There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.**" (Romans 8:1.)

If you are only seeking the things of this world, and not the things of God, you are living your life in shallow waters and you are not fully prepared to follow Jesus. You have to make up your mind to take a chance and go deeper into the Word of God. Going to church occasionally to listen to someone preach the gospel is like fishing in shallow water. However, when you start reading the Bible daily, meditating on the Word of God, and studying the scriptures to improve your knowledge of God, you will be qualified to receive deeper revelation from God.

There are too many one-dimensional Christians who are settling to stay in ankle deep water, yet they expect to receive a great reward. These individuals do not want to leave their comfort zone to bring in a big haul; they are satisfied with the water temperature, staying in the low-risk zone, feeling comfortable among those who are still

playing in the sand and satisfied with eating the bait that they should be using to catch the fish.

Peter was willing to obey Jesus and Jesus was willing to invest in his life to make him one of His disciples. Going out into the deep may be too much work and risky, but it will bring in great rewards. **You cannot lose when you obey God.** When Jesus was around, the fishing business became very lucrative for Peter and his partners.

Today, at the sound of my voice Jesus is calling you out from the shallow water into the deep. I know. You may not feel as if you are equipped to go out into the deep, but this is where Jesus is waiting for you. Jesus wants to reveal deeper mysteries and revelations to you. Look around; the devil is using unsaved people to cloud your vision and block your blessing. Block them. Move. Jesus is waiting.

It's in those deep spiritual places where God has blessings stored up for His children. God has visions, witty inventions, unique skills, wisdom, and all the new technologies available for His children, but many of us are settling to stay in the shallow water. Many are called but few are chosen. Today you are chosen to **launch out into the deep**. You don't have to settle for less than God's best!

A Daily Prayer For You!

"Search me, God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts and if there be any wicked way in me, [forgive me] and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)

Lord thank you for this beautiful day, help me to appreciate you love and goodness. Fill my heart with joy and gladness and help me to reflect on all the things that you have done for me.

When negative thoughts fill my mind, please remind me that you love me. When, I begin to feel hopeless and helpless, remind me that you are in total control of my life.

When I feel that my life has no meaning or purpose, please remind me that I was created to fulfill your purpose.

Thank you for loving me unconditionally. I trust you to continue to protect, provide, prosper, and empower me to live an abundant life. Amen!