

Following Christ's Call: A Journey of Transformation  
Go Deeper!  
Luke 5:1-11  
Plymouth Presbyterian Church  
St Helens, Oregon  
Rev. Peter J. Blank  
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## **Introduction**

The Sea of Galilee awakens to the soft hues of dawn, its surface shimmering with the promise of a new day. Along the shore, fishermen move with the rhythm of routine—scrubbing their nets, rubbing sore hands, their eyes reflecting the weight of another fruitless night. The air is thick with the mingling scent of salt and damp wood, as hushed conversations carry the echo of quiet disappointment. But amid the ordinary, something extraordinary is about to unfold.

A teacher stands nearby, His voice carrying over the gentle lapping of the waves. The crowd presses in, eager to listen. Spotting two boats at the water's edge, The teacher steps into one—Peter's. As He speaks, His words do more than inform; they stir hearts, awaken hope, and plant seeds of faith. When He finishes, He turns to Peter and speaks directly: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Peter hesitates. Every fiber of his being, every lesson learned from years of fishing, tells him this is pointless. But something about Jesus compels him—something in His gaze, something in His presence. With weary hands, Peter casts the net. Then, the impossible happens. The waters beneath begin to churn. The net, once empty, now strains under the weight of fish. Shouts ring out. Boats lurch as the miraculous catch threatens to sink them. Peter, overwhelmed, drops to his knees. "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" But Jesus, full of grace, responds with an invitation that will change Peter's life forever: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

This passage teaches us an essential truth: following Jesus requires going deeper—deeper in faith, deeper in trust, and deeper in obedience. Just as Peter and his fellow fishermen had to leave the safety of the shallows to experience the abundance of Christ, we, too, must venture beyond the surface level of our faith into the depths of God's purpose.

As we celebrate Black History Month, we recognize the faith of those who have gone before us—leaders, trailblazers, and freedom fighters who trusted God even in the face of oppression. Their journey of faith echoes the call to go deeper. Today, we will explore three practical ways we can “go deeper” in our walk with Christ, drawing inspiration from both Scripture and the perseverance of those who have fought for justice and equality.

## **1. Go Deeper in Faith – Trusting Jesus Even When It Doesn't Make Sense**

Peter was an experienced fisherman. He understood the tides, the currents, and the best times to fish. His weary hands and empty nets told him that another attempt would be pointless. Yet, when Jesus told him to go out into deeper waters, Peter responded, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net" (Luke 5:5).

Going deeper in faith means trusting Jesus even when it defies human logic. It requires surrendering our own wisdom and leaning on His divine direction. Like Peter, we often find ourselves in situations where our experience, knowledge, or common sense tells us one thing, but God calls us to something greater.

#### **Application:**

- **Obey God's Word even when it challenges your understanding.** The deeper life in Christ is not about comfort but about faith. Is God calling you to something that seems unreasonable? Like Peter, take Him at His word.
- **Look at the faith of those who came before us.** African American history is filled with men and women who trusted God when the odds were against them— As we celebrate Black History Month, we recognize the faith of those who have gone before us—leaders, trailblazers, and freedom fighters who trusted God even in the face of oppression. Their journey of faith echoes the call to go deeper. Harriet Tubman, known as the "Moses of her people," exemplifies this call. With nothing but unwavering faith, she navigated the Underground Railroad, rescuing enslaved individuals and guiding them to freedom. Each journey she made was a step deeper into trust in God's protection. Despite the dangers of capture and death, she pressed forward, saying, "I never ran my train off the track, and I never lost a passenger." Her story is a testament to what happens when we trust God beyond our understanding.
- Martin Luther King Jr. preached about a future he would not live to see. Their faith changed the world.
- **Trust that God's plans are greater than your own.** Peter could never have imagined the abundant catch waiting for him in the deep. Likewise, God's blessings often lie beyond the limits of what we can see.

## **2. Go Deeper in Surrender – Letting Go of Fear and Control**

The sight of overflowing nets and sinking boats was too much for Peter. His heart pounded as he dropped to his knees, overwhelmed by the power and holiness of Christ. "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" he cried (Luke 5:8). Yet, instead of leaving, Jesus called him closer. Going deeper in surrender means releasing our fears, insecurities, and control to Christ. Peter's instinct was to push Jesus away because he felt unworthy. How often do we do the same? We allow our failures and fears to convince us that we are not good enough to serve God. But Jesus calls us despite our weaknesses, inviting us to trust Him fully.

#### **Application:**

- **Let go of your fear of failure.** Peter could have let his past failures define him, but instead, he chose to follow Jesus. Similarly, those who fought for civil rights did not let fear silence them—they pressed forward, trusting that justice would come.
- **Surrender your sense of unworthiness to God.** Jesus calls imperfect people to do His perfect work. Just as He used Moses, David, and Peter.
- Jesus used a leader like Sojourner Truth, a former enslaved woman turned abolitionist and women's rights activist, refused to let fear dictate her destiny. Born into slavery, she endured unimaginable hardship, but her faith in God propelled her into a life of bold proclamation. She walked across the country, speaking truth to power, declaring the need for justice and equality. When threatened or discouraged, she boldly responded, "The Lord gave me the name Sojourner because I was to travel up and down the land, showing

the people their sins and being a sign unto them." She did not allow oppression, fear, or the threats of those in power to silence her mission. Her unwavering trust in God's calling serves as a powerful example for us today—we must step beyond fear and step into the divine purpose God has for us.

- Rosa Parks, refused to let fear dictate her destiny.
- **Release control and embrace God's plan.** Following Jesus means letting go of our own agenda and trusting His direction for our lives. Just as the faith of Black pioneers led to change, our faith today can influence generations to come.

### **3. Go Deeper in Commitment – Leaving Everything Behind to Follow Christ**

The final and most profound moment in this passage comes in verse 11: "So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him." The miracle of the fish was not the ultimate blessing—Jesus Himself was. The real invitation was not to a better fishing career but to a transformed life.

Going deeper in commitment means making Jesus the highest priority in our lives. The disciples did not hesitate; they left everything—boats, nets, and even the biggest catch of their lives—to follow Christ. True discipleship costs something, but it also leads to greater fulfillment than we could ever achieve on our own.

#### **Application:**

- **Prioritize Jesus above all else.** What areas of your life compete with your devotion to Christ? Following Him means making Him the center of every decision and priority.
- **Be willing to leave behind what holds you back.** The disciples left their boats and their livelihood. Are there things in your life—habits, relationships, or comforts—that keep you from fully committing to Jesus?
- **Follow the example of those who sacrificed for the greater good.** Many individuals in Black history left behind security, comfort, and even their lives to stand for righteousness. We must commit to a faith that moves beyond convenience and into action.

#### **Conclusion**

Jesus' call to Peter and the other fishermen was not just about catching fish—it was about transforming lives. He called them to go deeper in faith, surrender, and commitment. That same call extends to us today. Will we trust Him beyond our understanding? Will we surrender our fears and failures? Will we follow Him wholeheartedly, leaving behind anything that holds us back?

As we reflect on Black History Month, let us remember that faith, surrender, and commitment were the cornerstones of those who paved the way for justice and equality. Their courage is a testament to the power of going deeper with Christ.

The abundant life Christ offers is not found in the shallow waters of convenience and comfort but in the deep waters of obedience and faith.

So today, let us respond as Peter did—by stepping out of the boat, letting down our nets, and following Jesus into the depths of Christ's purpose.

**Will you go deeper?**