

Launch Out into the Deep Part-2

Last week we dealt with getting out of our comfort zone with the help of Holy Spirit, and how Jesus' power over nature vs. prospective disciple's failure to catch fish convinced them to follow the Lord. Today let's be challenged by **the greatness of adventurous faith** Jesus desires in His disciples, as He and Peter again go out to sea. But first, the miracle that set everything up.

Jesus Meets Human Needs

Feeding the 5,000 is the only miracle recorded in all 4 gospels.

Matthew 14:13-21 TPT Jesus hears about the beheading of His cousin, John the Baptist. *"On hearing this, Jesus slipped away privately by boat to be alone. But when the crowds discovered He had sailed away, they emerged from all the nearby towns and followed Him on foot. 14. So when Jesus landed, He had a huge crowd waiting for Him. Seeing so many people, His heart was deeply **moved with compassion*** toward them, so He healed all the sick who were in the crowd [Aramaic: "He nurtured them in love and cured their frailties."]. ***WW moved with compassion** "Gk *splanchnizomai*; To be moved with great pity. Greeks regarded the bowels as the place where strong emotions originated. The Hebrews regarded *splanchna* as the place where tender mercies and feelings of affection, compassion, sympathy, and pity originated. It is the direct motive for at least 5 of Jesus' miracles."*

15. *Later that afternoon the disciples came to Jesus and said, "It's going to be dark soon and the people are hungry, but there's nothing to eat here in this desolate place. You should send the crowds away to the nearby villages to buy themselves some food."*

Remember **John 4:31-32 NKJV** with the woman at the well, when “(Jesus’) *disciples urged Him, saying, Rabbi, eat.*” **32.** *But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.”* Well, Jesus also has **power by faith** that they/we do not know yet either! And **Heb. 13:8NKJV** says, “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.*”

16. “*They don’t need to leave,*” Jesus responded. *You can give them something to eat.*” **How is Jesus challenging us today?**

17. *They answered, “But all we have is five barley loaves and two fish.”* **What you have is all the Lord needs when you have faith! Jesus will use it to meet the need (tithe). Only believe!**

18. “*Let Me have them,*” Jesus replied.” **Today, let Jesus have what you possess, no matter how small or insignificant. Little becomes much when put into El Shaddai’s hands.**

19. *Then He had everyone sit down on the grass and He then took the five loaves and two fish. He looked up into heaven, gave thanks to God, and broke the bread into pieces (blessed – speak well of [Luke 6:28 “bless those who curse you”*]). He then gave it to His disciples, who in turn gave it to the crowds.* **20.** *And everyone ate until they were satisfied, for the food was multiplied in front of their eyes! They picked up the leftovers and filled up twelve baskets full!”* ***The essence of the Christian life is love!**

The remaining leftovers reveal the overabundance with which the Messiah blesses. In Christ, we are overabundantly blessed!

21. *There were about five thousand men who were fed, in addition to many women & children!" The More Than Enough! Was Peter especially impressed by this multiplying miracle?!*

Matt. 14:22-33 TPT Jesus Walks on the Sea & Peter, too!

*"As soon as the people were fed, Jesus told His disciples to get into their boat and to go to the other side of the lake while He stayed behind to dismiss the people. 23. After the crowds dispersed, Jesus went up into the hills to **pray***. And as night fell He was there praying alone. *"a request or entreaty in the direction of God." 24. But the disciples, who were now in the middle of the lake, ran into trouble, for their boat was tossed about by the high winds and heavy seas." Has your "boat" ever been tossed about by the high winds & heavy seas of life? Health, finances!*

25. *At about four o'clock in the morning (or "during the fourth watch of the night" between 3:00 and 6:00 a.m.), Jesus came to them, walking on the waves! We never know when the Lord will show up, but don't stop praying & believing!*

26. *When the disciples saw Him walking on top of the water, they were terrified and screamed, "A ghost!" 27. Then Jesus said, "Be brave and don't be afraid. **I am** here!" (TPT: "**I am**" is the name of God used in Ex. 3:14."). We, too, need to be brave & not fear the circumstances of life. The Lord said, "**I will never leave you nor forsake you.**" (Heb. 13:5).*

28. *Peter shouted out, "Lord, if it's really You, then have me join You on the water!" 29. "Come and join Me," Jesus replied. So Peter stepped out onto the water and began to walk toward Jesus." In life we'll all face opportunities to step out in faith, marriage probably being second biggest after*

accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord & Savior. Let's make our faith-choices by prayer.

Peter Takes His Eyes Off Of Jesus

30. *But when he realized how high the waves were, he became frightened and started to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he cried out.* **31.** *Jesus immediately stretched out His hand and lifted him up and said, "What little faith you have! Why would you let doubt win?"* **NKJV** "O you of **little faith***, why did you doubt."

SFLB note: "Jesus underscores the greatness of faith in the life of discipleship. He gives His followers the power to follow Him, even in adversity, and encourages **adventurous discipleship** (vv. 28-29)." **Have you engaged in "adventurous discipleship"**

lately? How about discipling a new believer? Going on a missions trip? Visiting strangers in a nursing home? Getting out of your comfort zone and speaking before a group of people re: your faith in God or how you came to accept Jesus as Lord.

***Little faith WW** "*oligopistos*; *Strongs #3640*: From *oligos*, "small," and *pistis*, "faith," describing a faith that lacks confidence or trusts too little. Jesus used the word in various situations as a tender rebuke or corrective chiding. Another way to term it is "underdeveloped faith" as opposed to outright unbelief or distrust (*apistis*)."

2 Cor. 5:14-15 TPT "*For it is Christ's love that fuels our passion and holds us tightly, because we are convinced that He has given His life for all of us. This means all died with Him, so that those who live should no longer live self-absorbed lives but lives that are poured out for Him – the One who died for us and now lives again.*"

By Christ's love, let's launch out into the deep & step out of our boats!