

## "Put Out into Deep Water and Obey!"

*One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 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.*

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

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

*Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

(Luke 5:1-7, 10b, 11) (NIV)

**Is that it? Maybe we are just afraid.** Are we afraid of the unknown or the uncertainty of success or failure. Do we want to obey God's call, but it comes at a price. We might like to know all the details before the adventure so we can decide if we want to be a part of it. We might ask, "What if God's plan works and we are successful, then what do we do next?"

Individuals and churches are suffering from this same dilemma. Do we continue "with business as usual" or do we start listening for God to guide us in the direction of the "fish".

Jesus directed Simon to "put out into deep water" after he had already been in "shallow water". Shallow water is safer and deeper water can be challenging. Simon was tired from the previous nights work, so why go out again? Don't we get tired in the church from doing all the business of the church like committees and fixing things and discussing all the things wrong in the world around us, "Why go out and go fishing again"? "Why don't we just wait for all the fish to come to us?"

Jesus wants us to trust his wisdom, obey him, follow him wherever he leads, and "fish" when he says to. How will we know when and where Jesus wants us to serve him?

**Just ask him!** That's right, go to him in prayer with our focus on his response. The more we ask, the more he will give us his way of doing things. This is not about the business or the busyness of our walk, but about our wanting to submit to his direction and fulfill what he wants, not what we want in his name. Jesus does not need our help to make it work, but he does like it when we are walking with him and it all comes together.