

ROOTED AND STEADFAST

Contributed by Bill Hawks

Called to Deeper Waters

BASED ON LUKE 5:1-11

"Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. "From now on you will be catching people." — Luke 5:10 (CSB)

Luke 5:1–11 tells the powerful story of Simon Peter's life-changing encounter with Jesus. It begins on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where Simon and his partners had spent a long, disappointing night fishing with nothing to show for it. Then Jesus stepped into Simon's boat—not only to teach the crowds, but to teach Simon a lesson in obedience, humility, and calling.

Jesus told Simon, "Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch" (v. 4). Though tired and skeptical, Simon replied, "Master, we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I'll let down the nets" (v. 5). His obedience led to a miraculous catch so large their nets began to tear and boats began to sink. Sometimes, like Simon, we resist stepping deeper with Jesus. We think we know best, especially in the familiar waters of our own strength or experience. But when Jesus calls us into deeper trust, He often reveals His power and purpose. As Proverbs 3:5–6 reminds us, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding."

The miracle overwhelmed Simon. He fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, because I'm a sinful man, Lord!" (v. 8). True encounters with the holiness of Jesus expose our unworthiness—but Jesus does not push us away. Instead, He calls us closer. He said, "Don't be afraid... from now on you will be catching people" (v. 10). Jesus transforms ordinary lives for extraordinary purposes. Simon, James, and John left everything to follow Him (v. 11). This is the heart of discipleship: surrendering what we know for the One who knows all. We may not all leave our jobs or homes, but Jesus still calls us to leave behind self-reliance, fear, and comfort to follow Him in faith.

Reflection Questions:

1. Where might Jesus be calling you to "put out into deep water"?
2. What are you holding onto that keeps you from full surrender?
3. Are you willing to follow, even when it means leaving the familiar behind?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling me beyond the shallow waters of comfort and into the deep waters of faith. Help me to trust You even when it doesn't make sense. Make me a faithful follower and a fisher of people. I surrender my nets and follow You. Amen.

Week Thirty Passages

July 21

LUKE 5
PSALMS 114-115
PROVERBS 21

July 22

LUKE 6
PSALM 116
PROVERBS 22

July 23

LUKE 7
PSALMS 117-118

July 24

LUKE 8
PROVERBS 23

July 25

LUKE 9
PROVERBS 24

