Put Out Into Deep Water

Luke 5: 1-11

1. **The metaphor Deep water**: is the call to embrace mystery, rather than simple allure. The call to a new and maybe risky adventure……….
2. **Jesus’ teaching at the Lake Gennesaret.**
* Jesus used Simon’s boat as pulpit. (Luke 5: 1-3)
* Imagine Jesus walks into our shop, car, house, and says that he needs our shop to preach. What will be your reaction? We may ask for how long? What will we get in return……...
* Jesus found Simon at his workplace and used his work material. Simon was kind and lets Jesus use his boat (Pulpit)…….
1. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon “**Put out into deep water and let down the nets for a catch.” (Luke 5: 4)**
* Jesus’ instruction to Simon on Simon’s work.
* What will be our attitude if someone walks to this place, and we do not know him and he starts giving us orders on what we have being doing for a long time?
* Jesus said to Simon “put out into deep water.” That means Jesus was changing Simon’s professional way of doing his work. Maybe Simon was fishing just simply on the surface of the water.
* Deep water can be risky too, because we have species other than fish that can be dangerous in the deep water.
* Fear of trying something new, madness of being told to do thing differently.
* But there was promise into the deep water despite its risks. “Let down your nets for a catch.”….
1. **What have we been trying for a long time to do in our lives, church, society, and family but it is not working? (Luke 5: 5)**
* **Simon was discouraged but Jesus’ word comforted hm.**

“Master, we have worked hard all night”--long time of work and not a good result. We can find ourselves in this situation, too. It could be social work, family problems, economic situation, spiritual lives, or church growth that we are looking to solve. We tried hard but maybe it is not working well. To the point that we feel trapped, discouraged, tired as Simon, we also say we have been doing that since then but nothing…...

* **But at the word of Jesus there is hope. Simon said, “But because you say so, I will let down the nets.”……... We also can say “But because Jesus said so…”**
1. **Faith in the word of Jesus and it effect. (Luke 5: 6-7)**
* **Obedience and promise.**  “When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their…signal their partners in the other boat to come and help….”

- At the word of Jesus Simon took the risk to put his net into the deep water with all the risks that might be there. The result was amazing to the point that they needed the other boat to help. (Ecumenical service creation.)

- When we trust Jesus’ word we can do extraordinary thing. Simon was fishing at that same place but caught nothing for the whole night. But when Jesus came, the negative situation was changed into a positive one. It was not just Jesus’ appearance, but Simon’s faith and obedience was crucial in the accomplishment of the promise.

1. **Simon praised Jesus. (Luke 5: 8- 10)**
* At the end of the catch, they were happy, and praised Jesus. Simon fell at Jesus’ knee and praised Jesus. Do we give glory to God at the end of our life project? If yes, we should continue doing so. If no, we should start planning things with God, for God and in the name of God.

**7- Jesus the life changer and comforter (Luke 5: 11)**

* Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”So, they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

**Jesus changed their life and situation. Their work was very crucial for them and maybe their family. Their fishing was not like what we do as a distraction thing. It was their income activity. Yet Jesus gave them new life, new plans. Then they became famous and to this day we are still talking about them.**

**Take away.**

-If the water is the world, or society and the net is our church, or our life, and fish are people we need to attract to our church or blessings on us. How do see us and the church doing that?

-Most of the United Methodist churches including ours want to bring young families and children in the church because we are finding ourselves in the church as stuck. We tried things but are not seeing change or growth. We are facing an aging situation.

- But how do we put out our nets into the water? How are our nets, can they catch small and big fish? Are we staying at the same surface and casting the net again and again like Simon? Are we putting it into deep water at Jesus’s word? Are we doing it in the name of Jesus? Or are we putting it out in our words, and feelings? What is troubling us and we cannot find a solution?

- Remember Jesus said to us last week where two or three are gathered, together in his name he is in their midst. When Jesus is in our midst, situations change. The result of what we do depends on where we put God in it.

Before we open the activity to the community, maybe we should plan time to pray God first……

-Maybe we should tell Jesus that we want to put out our nets at his word and because he said so. Maybe we have situation that is trouble our mind, peace, joy…… and we tried to solve it at our will, but it did not work. Let us take different horizon and go into a deep water at Jesus’ word and we will see. Let us come before God not be at a simple or usually and comfortable zone. We need to put into the deep water if we want to see change in our church, society, and lives. Jesus said to us as to Simon, do not be afraid anymore to face the deep water. But he will make us fishers of men. Blessings go with it if we follow Jesus with obedience and faith.