

From “A Little” to “Everything”: A Progression Towards Discipleship

Main idea: Jesus will often begin by asking for a little, use that obedience to call us into the deep, and in the deep reveal enough of Himself that we become willing to give Him everything. This Bible study will display a progression towards discipleship that Jesus engaged in. In an effortless way, Jesus was able to gain entrance into Simon Peter’s life with a “little” ask, then a command to go into the “deep”, that resulted in Peter giving Jesus “everything”.



NOTES

A Little—The Invitation (Luke 5:1-3)

Jesus steps into Simon Peter’s boat and asks him to put out “a little from the land.” This incredible journey begins with a relatively small act of availability and obedience.

- Jesus was **deliberate** in choosing Simon Peter’s boat.
 - Notice: Jesus did not meet Peter in the synagogue...He met him at work—in the very place Simon Peter has just experienced frustration and failure.
 - Jesus entered Peter’s ordinary world. This fulfills the “Go ye therefore...” component of the Great Commission.
 - **Key thought:** God does not need what we have, but he **desires** to use what we surrender to Him.
- Jesus begins the process of discipleship by asking for “a little”.
 - Notice the progression: Jesus gets into the boat—Jesus asks Peter to move “a little”—Jesus prepares Peter to go deeper.
 - **Key thought:** Sometimes God begins with a **small** request because He is preparing us for **greater** obedience.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - What might Peter’s “boat” represent in our lives?
 - What “little” thing might God be asking you to surrender or obey Him in?

The Deep – The Obedience (Luke 5:4,5)

Jesus moves Peter from the safety of the shoreline into deeper water: “Put out into the deep.” Now Peter must trust Jesus beyond his exhaustion, experience, and previous failure: “But at Your word...”



- Jesus' first instruction was relatively easy: "Move a little". Now Jesus asks for something greater: "Go deep."
- A deeper **obedience** requires a deeper **trust**.
 - We should not be surprised when God's instructions come at an inconvenient time.
 - In response to Christ's request, Simon Peter says, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing."
 - **Toiled - *kopiaio*** - to grow weary, **tired**, and exhausted; to work in such a way that you can feel your body getting weaker.
 - Though exhausted, Simon Peter stated, "But at your **Word** I will let down the nets."
 - **word - *rhema*** - the sound produced by the voice; a message; - that **specific** word for me...in this situation...in this instance.
 - **Matthew 4:4** - Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every ***rhema*** that proceeds out of the mouth of God.
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why is it sometimes harder to obey God after we have experienced disappointment?
 - Where might God be calling you from comfortable obedience into deeper trust?

Everything – The Surrender (Luke 5:6-11)

The miracle leads Peter to recognize who Jesus is, and Jesus calls him into a completely new life. The progression that began with giving Jesus "a little", ends with Peter giving Him **everything**. "They left everything and followed Him." (verse 11)

- Obedience **positioned** Peter to experience Christ's power. Peter could not produce the fish...but he was "positioned" to retrieve the fish.
 - Simon Peter's obedience did not only affect him—it blessed the people connected to him.
 - Key thought: Sometimes what God does through your obedience becomes a blessing to people around you.
- The blessing led to discipleship
 - Peter falls before Jesus and states: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Confession). Instead of being excited about the new found wealth...Peter was confronted with his own sin.
 - Jesus responds: "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men. (...in this way)" (I will show you how to "catch" people for me.)
- **Discussion Questions:**
 - Why do you think Peter was willing to leave the fish after receiving the greatest catch of his life?
 - What does this teach us about the difference between seeking Jesus for his blessings and following Jesus as Lord?