

Let's Visit

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The Walks of Jesus Lead To Faith

Luke chapter 5 tells the story of Jesus walking by the Sea of Galilee. The crowd pressed on him, wanting to hear the word of God. Jesus saw two ships nearby that were empty of men. The fishermen were washing their nets on the shore.

Jesus got into one of the ships, the one that belonged to Simon. He asked Simon to take the ship out from the land a bit. That way it would be easier for Jesus to teach the people. So we see Jesus using a boat for a pulpit. Teaching the people who had come to him.

When Jesus finished teaching he told Simon to launch into the deep and let down his net for a draught of fish. Luke tells us that Simon was not exactly thrilled with this idea. He told Jesus they had fished all night and caught nothing. Yet, he told Jesus that at his word he would do it.

So, Simon launched out into the deep and let down the nets. The catch was large enough to break the net. They called to their partners to come and help them. Luke tells us that both ships were filled with fish.

We are tempted to stop at many points in this story. Yet, the most vital message to us seems to be that simple challenge to "launch out into the deep". You see, too often we live in the shallows of our faith in God. We live in the shallows of Christianity. We are content to wade in the Kiddie Pool and take only a little of what God offers to us. Our hunger and our thirst is often deep. Yet, God's storehouse and God's well are without limit. God can supply more than we can ever need.

Launching out into the deep is a venture of faith. Reading between the lines, we see that Simon had no great expectations. He had tried and come back already with empty nets. He wanted to tell Jesus that if he would stick to preaching then Simon would stick to fishing.

Faith is something we could all use a larger dose of sometimes. In Luke 17:5-6, Jesus tells us the kind of faith to have. He tells us we should have the faith of the mustard seed. That was the smallest seed He could think of.

Our faith must be a faith in God for the Hebrew writer tells us in Hebrews 11:6 that it is impossible to please God without faith. However, our concept of the heart of God is often too small. We have faith in each other but our faith in God is small. We have faith in checks and banks. We have faith in automobiles and airplanes. We have faith in cooks we have never met and strangers who drive us in cabs and busses. When you think about it, it's a bit silly on our part. We have faith in people we do not know and have never met, yet we are reluctant to have faith in the God of heaven who created us.

A formal faith is worth nothing at all. It is actually worth less than nothing. It deludes and misleads. A formal faith is merely a mental assent to the fact that Jesus Christ lived.

A feeble faith will not accomplish great things for God either. It sinks in the hour of trial and it shrinks from open declaration and makes a feeble fight. A feeble faith begins the fight but abandons the enterprise.

God demands a living, appropriating faith. This kind of faith is the only effective faith. A faith that will launch out into the deep. This faith will accomplish great and wonderful things. This is the faith we must have.

tp

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday



Across The Preacher's Desk

If you remember from Paul's letter to the church at Rome, he had a burning desire to preach the gospel in the Capital city. In Acts 27 we find Paul on his way to Rome, yet he is going as a prisoner. While there he would have great success and members of Caesar's household would be converted.

However, the voyage to Rome was not without incident. A great storm occurred which threatened to tear the ship in pieces. The crew struggled to keep the ship afloat. They lightened the load by throwing everything overboard that was expendable. They went for days upon days not being able to eat.

Yet in the midst of it all, Paul stood upon the deck of the ship and told them to be of good cheer. He did not tell them to be of good cheer because of the seaworthiness of the vessel. They were not to be of good cheer because of the experience and dedication of the crew. They were to be of good cheer because the Lord had promised Paul that there would be no loss of life. Paul said, "Be of good cheer for I believe God."

The faith that sustained Paul on that voyage and that storm can sustain us in the storms of life. Whatever storm may be blowing through our lives, we can be of good cheer, for "we believe God". Like the words of that old familiar song, "Be not dismayed, what-er be tide, God will take care of you", and He will.

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**The Lord's Plan
For Evangelism –
Each one Bring one!
52 in '22!**



Those To Remember In Prayer

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Roxie Bostick , Gene Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted and Joyce Holt, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis

"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS

Mitchell Anthony (LaResa Livingston's brother) Ana Blair (friend of Debra Pate) Donna Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's niece) Gil Boullion (Ted and Joyce Holt's nephew) back surgery Becky Chance (friend of LaResa Livingston) Gayle Foster (Cancer) Dalton Hendrix (Joyce Holt's great-great nephew) Sandra Hogan (friend of Roxie Bostick) Suzie Hogan (Roxie Bostick's sister) Laurie King (Co-worker of Mike O'brien,) cancer : Bruce Ligon (friend of Tim and Norma Perkins) Liam Martinez (11 months old) Lamar McCormick (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) Calvin Smith (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; Katilyn Tate (Roxie Bostick's daughter-in-law) Jared and Natalie Bostick (Mike and Roxie's son and daughter-in-law) Marc Tate (Jana O'Brien's brother) Pat Tate (Jana O'Brien's mother) Tina Vaughn - cancer

THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE
Amanda Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw
Jeremiah Soape and Lucas Tate

If you want someone added to the prayer list, please fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

**For The Pantry. . .
Pasta Sauce**



SAVE THE DATE!

**September
11th**

Begin right now to pray for this to be a great day, invite your friends and neighbors to come and plan to be here!