

8-2-26 Do You Really? - Know Jesus

Overview

Many people know facts about Jesus the same way a sports fan knows facts about a famous athlete —yet they do not truly know Him. Using the story of Peter in Luke 5:1-11, this message challenges us to move beyond information into real relationship by obeying Jesus' invitation: "Go out where it is deeper." The deep is where life, challenge, and genuine relationship with Jesus are found. Every step deeper begins with a single, Spirit-led response.

Main Points

1. **The deep is full of life** Jesus directed the disciples into deeper water specifically "to catch some fish." Life—abundant, transformative life—is found in the depths of who God is, not merely in surface knowledge of verses like John 3:16. Deeper revelation of God's love (Romans 5:8; Isaiah 53) changes everything.
2. **The deep is challenging** Deeper water requires swimming, anchoring, and handling nets that begin to break under the weight of what God brings up. Going deeper will confront pride, sin patterns, and comfort. Even Paul grew in humility over time as he repeatedly entered the depths (Galatians 1 → 1 Timothy 1).
3. **The deep is where real relationship can happen** Information about Jesus is often gained in church; relationship with Jesus is forged in time spent with Him and especially in adversity (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 4:12-13). The places that feel hardest are frequently where dependence on Jesus becomes personal and strong.

Reflection Questions

- In what ways do I currently "know about" Jesus rather than truly know Him?
- Where have I stayed in the shallows of faith because the deep felt uncomfortable or risky?
- What is one area of my life where Jesus might be inviting me to go deeper right now?
- How has adversity in the past actually deepened (or exposed the shallowness of) my relationship with Jesus?

Application

- Ask the Holy Spirit right now: "What single step do You want me to take toward the deep?"
- Possible next steps: surrender your life fully to Jesus (prayer of salvation), sign up for Alpha, join a serve team, begin consistent family prayer, get baptized, repent of specific sin, forgive or seek forgiveness, or seek accountability.
- Commit to one concrete action this week and share it with someone who will help you follow through.

Group Discussion Prompts

- Share a time you realized there was a difference between knowing about Jesus and actually knowing Him. What changed?
- Which of the three descriptions of "the deep" (full of life / challenging / relational) resonates most with where you are right now? Why?
- Peter had to push out and let down the nets even after a frustrating night of failure. What "empty nets" or previous disappointments make it hard for you to obey Jesus' call to go deeper?
- What practical step is the Holy Spirit highlighting for someone in this group? How can we support one another in taking it?