

# THE FAITH TO FOLLOW

Pastor Jerry Clonch, July 15, 2007

**Text: Luke 5:1-11**

## How Does Jesus Build Our Faith?

*Jesus builds our faith through:*

### A. UNREASONABLE REQUESTS

“When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.’ Simon answered, ‘Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’” vss. 4-5

### B. UNEXPECTED RESULTS

“When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.” vss. 6-7

### C. UNANTICIPATED REVELATIONS

“When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, ‘Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!’ For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken....” vss. 8-9

### D. UNIMAGINABLE RESPONSIBILITY

“Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men.’ So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.” vss. 10-11

## Discussion/Reflection Questions

1. Jesus directed Peter to let down his nets in order to get a catch. Peter responded that they had fished hard all night, without catching anything. Yet he gave Jesus’ word higher authority than his own experience and so he let down his nets. If you had been Simon Peter when Jesus said, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch,” how would you have responded?
2. What is the “deep water” in your life? Where is Jesus asking you, in faith, to push away from the safety of the shore and let down your nets?
3. How do you think Simon felt about Jesus, a carpenter, telling him how to fish? What does it take for you to listen to God’s voice coming from someone you’re not expecting to hear it from?
4. Why do you think Peter was filled with fear after this miraculous catch of fish?
5. When Jesus’ directions proved fruitful, Peter and his partners became willing to follow him anywhere. Even before they understood all the places they would be going, they left everything to follow Jesus. What would Jesus have to do in your life for you to be willing to “leave everything” and follow him into an unknown future?