

**Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 2006: The process of knowing the Lord: Luke 5: 1-11—Call of Peter**

Yesterday at our Deacons.....Purpose Statement

**We are here to Know God and make Him Known**

**Now when you think about it....something we spend a lot of time doing**

In our ....(worship...home groups....Jesus kids....encouragement of daily)

We promote and develop by the Holy Spirit.....the Knowing of God

**And we will never stop doing so....because non of us...ever stop needing to grow**

We also realize.....that gaining knowledge of God is more than just hearing.....

IT's a process of hearing...doing...responding...trusting:::::

One that must continuously be repeating itself

**WE SEE THIS PROCESS REVEALED.....in the story of Simon Peter in Luke 5**

Simon Peter was a commercial fisherman....prob a 10 metre

His livelihood revolved around

On the partic occasion.....He is involved in one of those arduous tasks....cleaning

That morning the surroundings were diff.....Instead of the normal near deserted beach

And in fact.....soon the crowd became so huge.....that Jesus requested from Peter

**So here we find Peter....**in a sense compelled.....by his position in his boat....to listen

**He was** not one of the crowd

**He had not** come to the beach.....in order to listen

**He was just someone**.....happened to be in the place where God could...did ..speak

*(I always remember the story of Charles Spurgeon)*

*(Taxi driver in Malaysia.....Adolphus from Phil Yancey )*

**So Jesus preached**.....Peter sat and mended his nets.....And Peter listened

**But as I said.....Knowing involves more than just hearing**

It involves being challenged

*Let me say that if you are here week after week.....*

*Yet never allow yourself to be challenged.....*

*Then you will not move forward in your Knowing of the Lord*

*And one day....accept responsibility for that*

*For the hours you sat.....and didn't hear*

**When Jesus finished teaching** He made the challenge for Peter as clear as it could be  
Luke 5:4 tells us.....fronted Peter up and said.....

**It makes you wonder what Jesus had been teaching about ????**

God's provision....The need for Faith.....That He was here to do the work of the Father

**For Peter though.....A request fraught with difficulties**

Jesus was a great teacher and.....But not a professional fisherman

Peter knew there were no fish out there

He had just spent hours getting his nets ready

It was already embarrassing enough to have come back empty....

**So Simon has an initial reluctance to do what Jesus said**

He know doubt respected Jesus.....wanted to do what He asked

But what Jesus asked.....demanded a lot of effort.....already tired

**Yet the voice of Jesus compels.....as so many of us know**

When God calls you into something.....Its so hard to say know

**Peter's.....But because You say so, I will**

Is the answer that God loves to hear

Is God waiting for that answer from you

**Has He been** laying on your heart something.....seems so hard...so fruitless...demanding

**For the sake of growth in your knowledge of Him**.....you need not just  
To hear the challenge.....But by faith to launch out into the deep....as...

**For Peter...what happened next was much more than the miracle**  
He saw the greatness of God.....and His own sinfulness

**This is where true growth** in the knowledge of God really begins

**Peter saw the impossibility of a relationship**  
And then heard Jesus say....come follow me.....  
I Want you to be part of my team.....My family

**Its something that initially happens.....When we first become a Christian**

**But we need to re-live it again and again**  
And we do so during those times.....when we discover thro challenges we face  
How little we deserve God's help.....But just how much we want it

**The challenge may be a task God calls us** .....That we feel so nervous...unprepared 4

It may be a situation in life.....that tests our faith to the limit.....Yet calls us to endure

It may be an outpouring of His grace...that like Peter.....all we see is our unworthiness

**But what it is in reality**.....Is God leading us on the pathway of knowledge  
Knowledge of Him  
Knowledge of His love  
Knowledge that causes us to shine for Him ...in places of darkness

*(Yancey and the crumbled picture.....Is God using something in your life  
to remind you of His love)*

**So growing in Knowledge.....IS a process**

And this morning God knows where each of us is

**He knows those of you who just happen to be.....** You're a captive audience

**He challenges** you to really seek Him.....To discover the love He has for you

**He knows those of you** who are struggling with the challenge.....

He calls you to trust Him....**To take the step of Faith that will change....**

**And he knows those of you who are re-experiencing Him,**

Some through a new awareness of His power.....His greatness....your smallness

**Some through challenges that seem so hard.....**but you know He is with you

**Some through a deepening of your love and desire to do His will**

**This morning God seek communicates to us all.....the next step in the journey**

**Of knowing Him.....are we willingly to take it.**