

Scripture Luke 5:1-11

Anniversary

964

Big Ideas
Thinking Abundantly
Luke 5:4

5th Ave State St. 9/24/50

Canajoharie 10/23/55

Clarksville 9/15/57

964

BIG IDEAS!

"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep" Luke 5:4

I. Think abundantly!

A. I heard a speaker tell about a publishing venture that was most successful

1. This same business, however, had been failing
2. At the directors' meetings they had talked about their failures - about all the things they lacked
3. One day, one man got up and said, "We must stop this sort of thing, WE SHOULD START THINKING ABUNDANTLY!"
4. They did. They got "big ideas". They succeeded

B. I remembered how Jesus once said to Simon - Launch out into the deep!

II. Master we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing....Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep.

A. Jesus had been teaching from the boat

B. I like Little's comment

1. He says that Jesus was a keen observer of nature. We know that from the Parables for he talks about the sky at morning

and evening, the fields of grain white for the harvest, of wild flowers, of a sorrow fallow to the ground.

2. Perhaps that morning Jesus, as was his custom, was up early sitting on a high hill overlooking the lake or perhaps in a boat in the lake and perhaps he saw a great school of fish which these men had missed
3. We have no record of what Jesus taught that morning
- a. I think he talked about fishing
- b. About the lake by whose shores they were sitting
- c. Then I think he showed them he knew more about the lake than they
- d. I don't know - all I know is that his words gave these discouraged men "lift" enough to enable them to make the additional effort to put their nets back into the boats and pull out into the deep.

C. I remember that the history of Christianity is the history of people who thought abundantly, who had "big ideas"

1. Just read the Book of Revelation
- a. Remember, now, this was written by an exile on a little island - hardly more than a rock, only 16 miles square

b. Read portions of the 21st chapter

c. An idea of a perfect city with an area of 2,250,000 sq. mi. -- 1500 mi on a side

2. Just read any part of the NT You will find big ideas!

III. Well...let's wake up! Let's get some big ideas!

A. I know what you are saying

1. This is an age of cynicism
2. This is an age of lack of enthusiasm

B. You need to pray Clifford Osbornes prayer

"Save my enthusiasm, O God! When things for which one should be amusedly tolerated die with smiles at early zeal; When ideals for man and world are grown gray with waiting, Gone dead thru lack of achievement When call to questing are throttled At divine impossibili (to silence ties)

When iniquity and useless pain are dumbly accepted God save me from this! Strike me dead ere this! Revert the damning disgrace of it Slay me with a slogan still in my mouth With a Utopia yet bubbling in my brain

C. E.M. Shields writes

"Don't let my life grow dull Lord I want my heart to sing The majesty of mountains, the tint of bluebird's wing I want my ears to quicken To brook song - rhythmic, low, When stars come out at sunset, I want my soul to grow; Don't let my life grow dull!"

IV. Get some big ideas about

A. Yourself

1. Christianity never depreciates the individual
2. "It does correct selfish individualism which is quite different
3. The beginning of the reformation of the prodigal was when "he came to himself"
4. Just what do you have in mind for your life?
- a. As a youth
- b. As an older person

E. Your world

C. Your community

D. Your church

Wine Making to his
they say, I am of they of phar
regally
"Little churchmen"

VIII There does Potany come
 201. Ancient City - 25 pp. pit
 2 people - neither present
 no puns
 1. We insist on attendance
 2. We had better bend
 something to present
 B. Deal need to work for
 results -
 all very station
 Dumbly Clergy blank
 flustered down.
 C. P. P. - no planissans
 We need to be able to
 work when there are
 no shorts.

Mar. 18, 1884 New Yorker
 Harry Brandeis
 responsible to fact & cause
 digging the hole - a small
 one - ending with a
 desecration of only 1/8".
 He turned up and assigned
 the trustee / or instrument
 was retained for six years
 after the regular retirement
 age.
 Municipal career - began
 until he was 60 quite a while
 after he had retired as a judge
 of summary jurisdiction.
 Made laws by hand.
 Made a law in the
 stock market. "I'd dream
 of those transients I used to make"
 One day stopped to
 chat with a group of surgeons
 Couldn't get a transit
 appeared to adjudge
 Shooked to his job in the
 city

202 -
 After a couple of years something
 remembered he had never
 or. civil service exam -
 he took it & passed.
 Then something happened
 he was forced to be allowed to
 take the exam.
 As that point everybody
 forgot about the whole thing.
 Finally at 70 he died
 retired.

203 -
 After a couple of years something
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 he took it & passed.
 Then something happened
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III. Let's make this specific. This morning and this week we are celebrating the fact that this present church organization is 25 years old.

A. Brief statement of the history

B. Actually there is a history of thousands of years back of us.

1. Methodism
2. The Reformation
3. St. Paul
4. Jesus and the Disciples
5. The early prophets
6. The dim centuries when Abraham went out to a strange land.

C. I am not nearly so interested in what has happened as I am in what is going to happen.

1. The next 25 years of this church's history is my concern.
2. And those 25 years will be determined by us
 - a. By what we do today
 - b. By what we dream today

D. I have some "big ideas" for this church.

1. Our location makes it possible for us to minister to the WHOLE CITY rather than to one little section
 - a. Here we are at the heart of ~~city~~ - where cross the crowded ways - what an opportunity!
 - b. People come to us, not because we are conveniently located next to their homes but because of our message and our mission
 - c. I want to see this church minister to ALL the people of this community.
2. I should like to see this Church pioneer in giving people an opportunity to worship.
 - a. The tendency to have tried everything
 - b. No just at 11 A.M. Sundays
 - c. A vision of a seven day worshipping church The doors always open.
3. I should like to see this Church minister to the total needs of people.
 - a. Mental
 - b. Physical
 - c. Spiritual

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h. I should like to see this church concerned about the real and vital problems which flesh and blood men and women are facing this very day as they walk past our doors

E. This means an increased staff of workers, this means some people in our membership will have to get a new idea of what it means to belong to a church, this means increased budgets, this means that we need more people in our membership, we need more workers, this means that we always step forward, never back, this means that we always expand never contract, this means that we follow the words of the eternal Galilean and LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP!

E. Master we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing.....Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep.

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