

"TREASURED TO GO DOWN DEEP!" - FEBRUARY 10, 2019
THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
ISAIAH 6:1-8; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11; LUKE 5:1-11
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

`How's the weather?' `What's new?' `How's it going?' Most of us are pretty good at making small talk. Oh, we want to show our concern, our interest, but most of us like doing so while remaining on the surface. Going below the surface takes trust, confidence, on the part of everyone involved. Taking relationships to a deeper level is risky. What if the other person does not want to go along, down a little deeper? When it comes to our spiritual walk, how can we deepen our relationship with those we want to? How we can go with Jesus down into the depths of who we are? How could we possibly go as deep as Jesus is calling out to us? Today, we are given a new epiphany: To believe and to see the One who treasures us first, meets us again and again right where we are, every day; then he climbs in with us to take us deeper, to renew our commitment and devotion to him and those around us, to deepen and renew our faith in the One who believes in us! Let us forever trust the One who treasures us first, fills us to go deep; that's where the catch is; to believe the true depth of God's light and grace!

1. Like the disciples, Jesus meets us on the surface; the One who treasures us knows where we are, then he invites us to go deep! Luke 5:1-4, 1 Corinthians 15:3-6
 - A. Jesus met the disciples where they were. He invited them to go with him out into the deep water, and to lower their nets.
 - B. Jesus will meet us and go with us into deeper waters, too!

2. The One who treasures us first, will go with us into the depths of who we are, what matters most, what drives us, satisfies our souls! Isaiah 6:5-7; Luke 5:8
 - A. Like the disciples, Jesus knows us, who he is climbing on board with. Jesus knows deepening a relationship is where some of the most, some of the best, is hiding.
 - B. Down deep, we can be honest with Christ about who we are.

3. Going deep is a high risk, high reward commitment. Going down deeper will not be easy. Going deep is often where the catch is! Luke 5:5a

- A. The One who treasures us first, knows where to find us, renews our commitment to go deep with him; that's where the catch is!
 - B. We might have already worked pretty hard. Trust The Spirit will fill us to work even harder, to dig a little deeper still, to find deeper fulfillment, and to celebrate the deeper rewards; down deep is often where the catch is!
4. Trust the One who treasures you first, believes in you first, leads you to a deeper sense of faith. We might already have faith, yet we can trust even more!
Isaiah 6:8; 1 Corinthians 15:10-11; Luke 5:5
5. As we see Jesus come to us, as we listen to him, as we drop all that is shallow in our lives, The Spirit will grant us a new epiphany and fill us with all that gives deeper meaning and purpose. As Jesus gives us courage and faith to go deep, to put our nets and our hearts out and to go deep, to renew our commitment to make God first; we will be blessed to see, down deep is where the catch is, where Jesus catches us, where the One who treasures us first fills our nets, our hearts, with Light and grace! 1 Corinthians 15:8; Luke 5:6-7,10