



INVITATION TO THE DEEP

- ▶ Christianity is not superficial.
- ▶ Do not reduce it to simple rituals.
- ▶ We must go deeper with our relationship with God.
- ▶ Without depth, we will never be Jesus to the world.

We break the Father's heart when we live superficially and frivolously.

1 Cor 1:5-7 - that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 3:1- And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to **carnal**, as to **babes in Christ**.

1 Cor 14:20 - Brethren, **do not be children** in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be **mature**.

1 Cor 16:13 - **quit you like men, be strong**.

- ▶ **Are you willing to give up childish thinking and pettiness?**
- ▶ **Do you desire a deeper life with God?**

Eph 4:14 - That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

Luke 5:1-11 - And it came to pass,
that, as the people pressed upon him
to hear the word of God, he stood by
the lake of Gennesaret,

And saw two ships standing by the
lake: but the fishermen were gone out
of them, and were washing their nets.

And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.



Picture #1 Jesus is standing on the beach with a crowd of people around him. They desire only to hear the Word of God, not anything else.

- ▶ Have you ever seen a group of people searching only for the Word of God?
- ▶ I am not talking about something you have heard, but something you have experienced for yourself.

Peter says this to the persecuted and scattered church:

1 Peter 3:14-15 - But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: **and be ready always to give an answer** to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

- ▶ Today, the church has adapted to the character of the culture. So now, everything has become about **fun**.
- ▶ The church no longer bears witness to Jesus Christ, but has become about **comfort** and **pleasure** to charm people.

Salt – preserves and makes you thirsty.

The beginning of going deep is to get out of yourself, love others and care for people.

A faded background image showing several fishermen on a beach, likely washing their nets. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a warm, golden glow. The fishermen are silhouetted against the bright sky, and their long shadows are cast on the sand. They appear to be engaged in the task of cleaning their fishing gear.

Picture #2 The fishermen are washing their nets after a long night of disappointment.

- ▶ Here we see the disciples were busy fishing, but Jesus was busy fishing people.
- ▶ Jesus is busy with saving souls.
- ▶ The disciples are busy with their business.

When God's work and our work
are united, it indicates that we are
on the right path.

- ▶ If your Christian life is only about going to church on Sundays, you will remain superficial.
- ▶ But when you carry God's presence outside the church, you are going the right way.

▶ One of our biggest sins in life is to separate God's work from our own.

Don't take Jesus with you to your work, but let Jesus take you, because...

- ▶ God did not call us to build our own project, but to build his project. (*Build my church on the rock*)
- ▶ God called us to partner with him. (2 Cor 6:1)

- ▶ It has become normal for the church to teach us how to control God.

Example: How to make God hear our prayer.

- ▶ Then we follow everything with “Not my will but yours be done” but we don’t actually mean it.

- ▶ Sitting around and waiting for Jesus to come back is not what God intended for the life of his children.
- ▶ Many believers have limited the Christian walk to waiting on Jesus' return, going to meetings and conferences.
- ▶ God intended for us to be light and salt.

▶ We must stop the stupidity of begging God to make our projects succeed.

→ It's our plan, not His.

Gal 6:7 - Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

▶ In Romans 1, God said three times that He “gave them over to their sinful desires”

- ▶ What do you want?
- ▶ Do you want God to serve you or for you to serve him?
- Most of the time, God doesn't respond to our requests because if he did our lives would be destroyed.

- ▶ Saul finished his life in shame because he used God instead of working with God.
- ▶ David finished his life in honor because he fought the Lord's battles with God.
- ▶ Paul destroyed Satan's world system by working with God in his plan.

- ▶ Let God fight for you in times of injustice.
- ▶ Your responsibility is to focus on God's work.

Jesus thrust out into the water and left the beach. Then he cast off into the deep.

- ▶ In the beginning, you must leave the beach to go to the deep.
- ▶ Get out of yourself to take care of others.

A Christian Philosopher said, “Our Ambitions blind us from seeing what is around us.”

- ▶ A person who is focused only on his own goals will run over everything else around him.

The more you take your eyes
off of yourself, the more
freedom you have to focus on
others.

- ▶ Staying away from the beach makes you see what God sees.
- ▶ We see the world through our experiences, not through God's Truth.



Salvation is not something you
get, but a journey you live.

- ▶ When I am far away from the beach and in the deep with God, He restores my humanity and purpose for which I was created.
- ▶ We don't preach salvation and going to heaven. We preach the Savior who gives us life.

Picture #3 A calling that wasn't obeyed or fulfilled.

▶ Three times Jesus called Peter.

First time Jesus called Peter

John 1:42 - And he (Andrew) brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, a stone.

Second time Jesus called Peter

Matthew 4:18-19 - And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Third time Jesus called Peter

Luke 5:10 - And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

- ▶ To be far from the beach and into the deep, it requires multiple steps.
- ▶ Each call from Jesus to Peter was another step out.

- ▶ How could the disciples deny their calling and leave Jesus to work alone?
- ▶ If you leave God's call to go fishing, you will not catch fish or souls. You will be a failure both physically and spiritually.



Picture #4 Jesus borrows Peter's boat and uses it as a stage.

- ▶ What boat will you give to Jesus?
- ▶ Jesus became the captain of Peter's boat.
- ▶ What do you have of value that you can give to Jesus to captain?

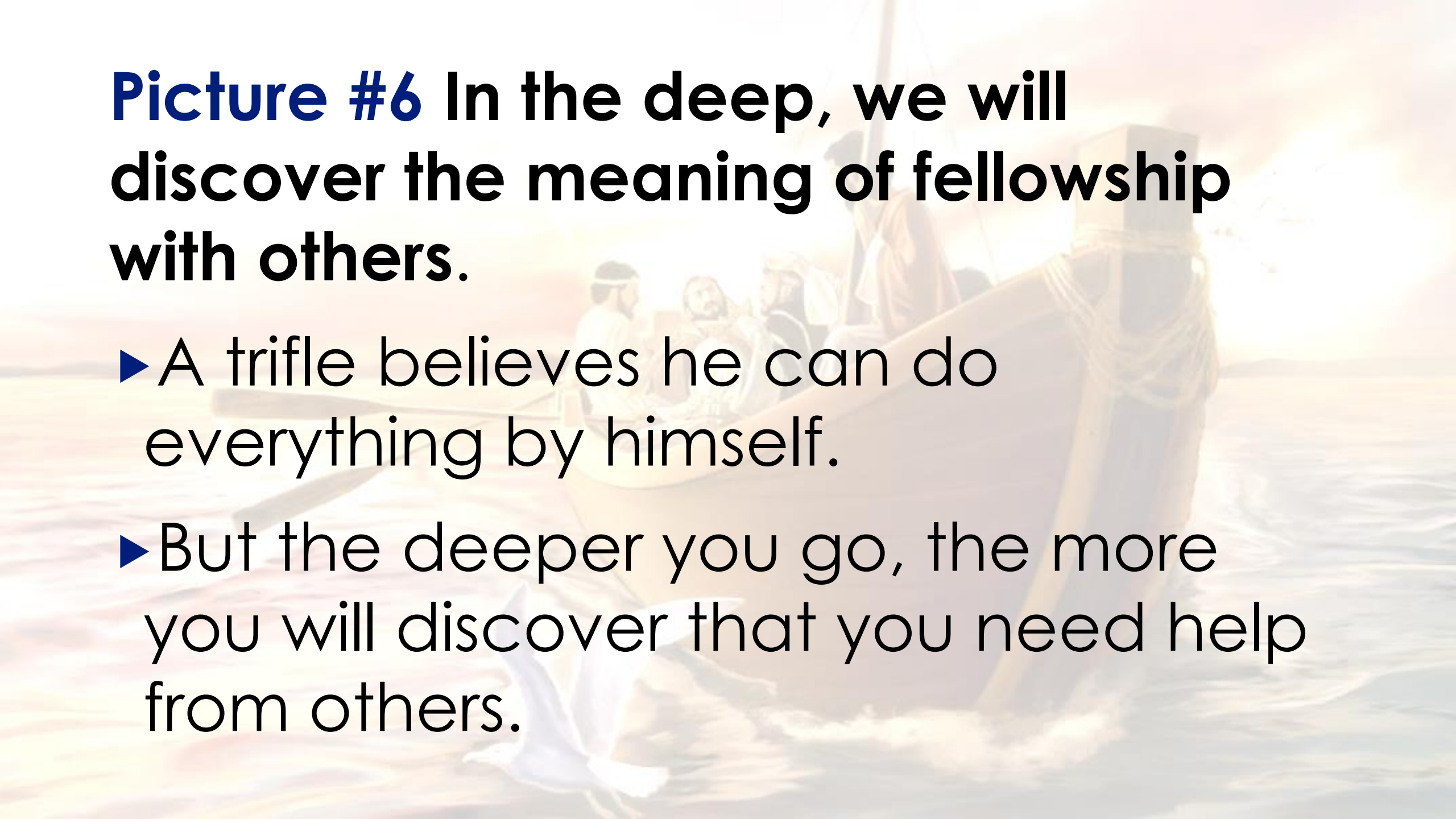
A painting depicting a fishing boat filled with a large catch of fish. Several men are visible on the boat, some standing and some sitting, amidst the abundance of fish. The scene is set on a body of water under a bright sky.

Picture #5 In the deep, they caught a bounty of fish.

- ▶ How many people think that they know or understand more than God when it comes to their business?

We see an important lesson here:

- ▶ Jesus could have let them catch the bounty of fish from the beach.
- ▶ Jesus took his disciples to the deep to have a personal relationship with him and be far away from trifles (Beach).

A group of men in a small boat on the sea, with a large wooden cross on the deck. The scene is set against a bright, hazy background, possibly a sunset or sunrise. The men are dressed in simple, light-colored clothing. The cross is made of dark wood and is positioned in the foreground, partially obscuring the view of the boat's interior. The water is calm, and the overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

Picture #6 In the deep, we will discover the meaning of fellowship with others.

- ▶ A trifle believes he can do everything by himself.
- ▶ But the deeper you go, the more you will discover that you need help from others.

Out in the deep and a far distance
from the beach, you'll find this
great benefit:

Stopping the gossip!



Picture #7 In the deep, there are blessings for others too.

- ▶ When we go deeper, we become aware of our limitations and helplessness.



Picture #8 In the deep, you know who is Jesus and who is Peter.

- ▶ You will be aware of your weaknesses and God's grace working through you.
- ▶ God appears in your boat (business)
- ▶ How could Jesus leave Peter while in the deep?

Picture #9 In the deep, the mission is fulfilled.

- ▶ In the deep, Jesus told Peter, “Fear not. Now you will be a fisher of men.”
- ▶ Notice that He didn’t say “follow me and I will make you a fisher of men”, He said “Now”.
- ▶ On the beach – Follow Me.
- ▶ In the Deep – Fear Not.



The background of the image is a serene sunset or sunrise over a calm body of water. The sky is filled with soft, horizontal bands of color, ranging from pale blue at the top to warm yellow and orange near the horizon. The water's surface is still, reflecting the colors of the sky. In the middle ground, a small, dark silhouette of a boat is visible on the water, positioned slightly to the left of the center. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and contemplative.

Picture #10 In the deep,
dependency is complete.

SESSION 2

Invitation to the Deep

- ▶ We must carry the presence of God with us everywhere.
- ▶ The biggest obstacle to entering a deep relationship with God is that we separate God's work from our work.
- ▶ Our simple talents can be used to make money or be Given to God to win souls

- ▶ Washing Nets – Declaring Failure
- ▶ Depth only comes after a long night of conflict and failure.
- ▶ Enlightenment only comes with a change of thinking and change occurs due to brokenness.
- ▶ A person who bears much fruit has been broken first.

- ▶ Another obstacle to the deep is believing that we can achieve in life outside of God's authority.

We need to give God authority in two areas of our life

1. How we manage our life.
2. The meaning of life.

- ▶ God works through the situations in your life.
- ▶ When you don't understand, it's ok, because He knows what He is doing.

Keep going...

Jacob

- ▶ Believed he was able to manage life on his own.
- ▶ Believed that he could create meaning in life on his own.

**God changed his name to “Israel”,
which means “El Manage” or *God will
manage*.**

Genesis 32:28 - And He said, “Your
name shall no longer be called
Jacob, but Israel; for you have
struggled with God and with men,
and have prevailed.”

God was telling him:

Jacob, you need to stop having confidence in yourself and planning your own life. Instead, look to Me first. I know that you don't know what to do, but My eyes are on you and I am for you.

Jacob won in the end, but not by his own power.

Hosea 12:4 - He strove with the angel and prevailed; **he wept and sought his favor**. He met God at Bethel, and there God spoke with us

Genesis 32:26 - But Jacob said, "I will not let you go **unless you bless me.**"

God told him that He would bless him by managing his life. But he needed to stop managing it by himself.

Jacob reaped the consequences of not trusting in God.

“If Esau has muscles, I have brains.”

1. He didn't get see his mother for 20 years.
2. He was manipulated by his uncle who changed his wages 10 times.

Jacob paid consequences for managing his own life without God.

Genesis 31:40-41 - There I was! In the day the drought consumed me, and the frost by night, and my sleep departed from my eyes.

Thus I have been in your house **twenty years**; I served you fourteen years for your two daughters, and six years for your flock, and **you have changed my wages ten times.**

- ▶ For 20 years, Jacob served Laban. But not once do we see him praying to God for help.
- ▶ Instead he relied on deception to get what he wanted.

For 20 years, God was with Jacob, even though he never prayed.

Genesis 31:42 - Unless the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had been with me, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God has seen my affliction and the labor of my hands, and rebuked you last night.”

Jacob's other mistake was in thinking he could give his own life meaning through marriage to Rachel only.

▶ Hosea mocks Jacob in his journey

Hosea 12:12 - Jacob fled to the country of Syria; Israel served for a spouse, **And for a wife he tended sheep.**

There was a Christian researcher who did a study on love songs, he discovered:

- ▶ Love songs do not talk about the beloved, but about God.
- ▶ The beloved has become their god.

- ▶ God did not design marriage to be the fulfillment and meaning of life or to replace Him.
- ▶ It is to help us complete God's plan for us.
- ▶ Let God run your life.

The first person Jacob loses in his life is Rachel.

- ▶ Let God choose your way and manage your life for you.
- ▶ Let God choose the meaning of your life.

Words in the Bible have meaning.

- ▶ Jacob leaves his father's house

Gen 28:11 - So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because **the sun had set**

- ▶ Jacob returns to Bethel

Gen 32:31 - Just as he crossed over Penuel **the sun rose** on him, and he limped on his hip.

The point here is that God never abandoned Jacob.

- ▶ When you are in a night season of conflict and failure, You reap the consequences of your choices and plans.
- ▶ God will not abandon you even in this.

- ▶ God is with us even in our stupidity.
- ▶ Jacob's vision was during a time of his stupidity as he was fleeing to Laban.
- ▶ The Lord promised Jacob that he would be with Him. Genesis 28:15

The greatest vision Jacob ever saw was when he had escaped Laban but was not following God.

- ▶ God did not promise to bless Jacob's plans and protect him from the consequences of his actions.
- ▶ He promised that he would be with him.

- ▶ The beginning to the deep is after the night and failures have passed.
- ▶ Jacob started a new beginning into the deep with a broken hip.
- ▶ At the end of his life, Jacob died leaning his head on the staff.
(Hebrews 11:21)

Ways to enter the deep:

- ▶ Pass through the long night.
- ▶ Do not neglect in your relationship with God.
- ▶ Let Jesus lead you.
- ▶ Brokenness is necessary to enter the deep.

Two Choices:

▶ “As God sees” - That’s enough for me.

Or

▶ “As you see” - Expecting God to follow you. This choice is painful.

▶ In the deep, Peter recognized Jesus as Lord and bowed down to him.

→ “We labored all night and didn’t catch anything!”

▶ In the deep, Jacob’s name was changed to Israel

→ God is now the manager of his life.

We must admit that we cannot manage our lives on our own, but let God direct us.

“From today, I will kneel at your feet”

James 1:2 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials.

- ▶ You don't have to be happy during the troubled times, but you need to trust that God will never leave you.

SESSION 3

Where you will find the value in life.

- ▶ As you read the words of God in Scripture, you should discover that Christian life is deep and profound.
- ▶ But... most times we are surface Christians only and make the Christian life a trifle.

Matthew 6:19-24 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

- ▶ This sermon is directed to the children of God.
- ▶ In the Bible and the teachings of Jesus, we see that God's children should be no less effective than God's Word.
- ▶ Because people do not read the Bible, they are far from God. But they do read the lives of God's people. We are the message to the people.

- ▶ When the children of God go to the deep, they will be filled with fire and this fire burns the false life.
- ▶ Just As the word of God is important to the world, the children of God's life is equally important.

- ▶ Going into the deep equips us to do the work of the word of God which leads people to the truth.
- ▶ People will participate in God's truth when they see it lived.
- ▶ Truth does not live on the shore, but out in the deep.

- ▶ The world today needs the kingdom of God's sons to go to the deep and live a strong, influential life more than they need Christian talk and gossip.
- ▶ Today's generation hears through their eyes, but by their ears. They think by emotion.
- ▶ This is why the gospel can be understood when they see us living it rather than to read it themselves.

The Sermon on the Mount is not a salvation message.

- ▶ It is the way of life for the faithful.
- ▶ Those who are already saved, live by this message.

Jesus asks and answers 3 questions.

1. Do not hoard up treasures for yourself on earth.

Where do you find value in life?

2. Jesus probes into the deepest part of us.

How do you see life?

3. Jesus talks about money.

What is your approach to life? Who do you serve and who do you use?

- ▶ Which God do you serve?
- ▶ Who do you serve and who do you use?

Where do you find value in life?

- ▶ God created us for His Glory. Sin deprives us of this glory.
- ▶ God wants to glorify us.

John 5:44 - How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?

Matthew 6:2 -Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that **they may have glory from men**. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Matthew 6:5 - “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that **they may be seen by men.** Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Matthew 6:16 - “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that **they may appear to men to be fasting.**

Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Matthew 6:19-22 - “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.

- ▶ The religious life is superficial and false. Especially when compared to a deep relationship with God.
- ▶ The cheapest area that gives people value is religion.
- ▶ Contrast this with a true, hidden spiritual life – Jesus affirmed this 6 times.

Where do you find your value in life?

- ▶ Do you get it from religion?
- ▶ Do you get it from the appreciation from other people?

Do not seek your value from other people, but instead go to your closet and seek God's face.

Where do you find your value in life?

- ▶ Jesus is not saying that its bad to have a treasure, but he is asking, Where is your treasure?

Why do we collect or buy things that have value?

- ▶ To give us value. The more treasure we have, the more valuable we are.
- ▶ This is dangerous because we become what we own.

To have... or To be...?

- ▶ If you put your value in what you have, this is dangerous because it can be destroyed, eaten or stolen.
(Moths, Rust, Thieves)

- ▶ We are a vessel preparing for glory today.
- ▶ When Jesus came in the flesh, he showed God's glory.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth.

I am responsible to be a willing vessel to receive, change and portray God's glory to the world.

What you value and work toward
while here on earth is what you will
value in eternity.

How do you see life?

- ▶ You see life through your mindset, background and values.
 - ▶ If your eye is correct then you will have a correct view.
 - ▶ If your eye is wrong then you will have a wrong view.
- The most important thing is your mentality and how you view riches.

- ▶ Danger and fear prevents people from Thinking, reviewing and correcting beliefs.
- ▶ What if the belief that you grew up believing is wrong?
- ▶ What if your entire mentality is wrong?

Example: Canaanite woman

Your mentality might be wrong or evil.

- ▶ For this reason, we need Jesus to correct our lens.

How do you see life?

- ▶ What are your values and beliefs?

- ▶ Do you spread darkness or light?
- ▶ How does our vision become healthy?

Ephesians 4:17, 23 - So with the wisdom given to me from the Lord I say: You should not live like the unbelievers around you who walk in their empty delusions. and be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

Romans 12:2 - And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed **by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Titus 3:5b - through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

What is your approach to life? Who do you serve and who do you use?

- ▶ If your mind is dark, you will serve money, and use God and people for yourself.
- ▶ If your mind is renewed, you will serve God and use money for him.

These 3 questions take us deeper. The answer to these are signs of going deeper with God.

1. Where do you find value in life?
2. How do you see life?
3. What is your approach to life? Who do you serve and who do you use?