

Life in the Deep End

Part 1 (Luke 9:10-17)

When I follow Christ:

1. I will be _____ out into the _____ of life.

“When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.” Luke 9:10-11

2. I will discover the _____ of my _____.

“Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, ‘Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here.’ He replied, ‘You give them something to eat.’” Luke 9:12-13a

3. I will see God do _____ when I let Him apply His _____ to my _____.

“They answered, ‘We have only five loaves of bread and two fish --unless we go and buy food for all this crowd.’ (About five thousand men were there.) But he said to his disciples, ‘Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each.’ The disciples did so, and everybody sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to set before the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.” Luke 9:13b-17

Meditations for the New Year

Daily meditations based on this week’s message

This week’s memory verse:

“I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Phil. 4:13

Monday

Read Luke 9:1-6, 10-11. What had the disciples returned from doing? How do you think they were feeling?

Why do you think Jesus withdrew with the disciples? What was Jesus’ response when the crowds followed them?

What are two practical things can you apply to your life from these verses?

- 1.
- 2.

Thank God today for the opportunities you had over Christmas to serve Him. Thank Him for His strength and mercy. Ask Him to give you a heart of welcoming compassion for the people who follow you.

Tuesday

Read Luke 9:12-13a. Today is New Year’s Eve and a great opportunity to reflect on God’s faithfulness through the last year. Take a moment and list 5 ways you saw God’s faithfulness to you in 2002.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

According to the verses you read today, how were the disciples led into the “deep end” of life - how did they discover the limits of their resources?

Recall a time when you were led into the “deep end” of life. What did it feel like?

Why do you think people want to avoid “deep end” experiences?

Which of these best describes how you tend to respond to “deep end” experiences:

_____ Seek to control the situation

_____ Panic

_____ Look for help right away

Thank God today for His watchful care over your life. Thank Him for the times you've been led into the “deep end” and for His faithfulness. Commit the coming year to Him and ask Him to help you rest in Him and grow in grace and faith. Pray that your first response to the “deep ends” of 2003 will be “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Wednesday

Happy New Year! January 1st is a great day - it's a day of promise and optimism. Read Luke 9:13b-17. When we left the disciples yesterday they were at the limits of their own resources. According to the verses you read today, how did the disciples see God's unlimited power work with their limited resources?

How have you seen God's unlimited power work through your limited resources?

This is a great thing to focus on today: I will see God do amazing things when I let Him apply His unlimited power to my limited resources. Now matter what your resolutions are for the new year, applying this principle will make all the difference in the outcome of your year.

Spend an extended time in prayer today. Write down some of the ways your feeling at the end of your limited resources. Surrender these to God and thank Him in advance for His unlimited power. Talk to God about the year ahead. Tell Him what you're apprehensive about, tell Him your dreams and desires. Pray that in each day of the year you will be a willing vessel of God's unlimited power and grace.

Thursday

Read Eph. 3:16-18. What do these verses teach you about God's power?

According to verse 18 what does God's power help you to understand?

How do you think your life would be impacted if:

You allowed Christ's power through the Holy Spirit to strengthen your inner being (vs.16)?

You were rooted and established in God's love (vs. 17)?

Through God's power you began to grasp the depth of God's love (vs. 18)?

Thank God today for His power and love. Ask Him to help you apply both your life today.

Friday

Read 2 Cor. 12:7-10. What does Paul say about God's power in these verses?

Read verses 9-10 over three times. How have you seen the truth of this in your life.? Write down two applications for your life today.

Thank God today that His power is shown best through your weakness. Ask God to help you apply these verses to your life.

Saturday

First, please pray for our services this weekend. Second, please review the memory verse for this week and finish up any devotions you may have missed. Pray that as this New Year begins you will apply what you learn in God's Word and grow in Him.