

SERMON FOR SUNDAY
MARCH 22, 2026
"LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP"
HEAD PASTOR BILLY HAN, JR.

Thank you Melvin!

Some of you in our viewing audience are undoubtedly wondering if the participants in our telecasts are compensated in any way to perform in the Choir, Band, or special vocal and instrumental groups.

My answer is an emphatic: NO! Let me reassure you all, that every person you see in our telecasts are bonafide members of The Apostolic Faith Church, who give of their total rehearsal and performance times, as well as their talents, willingly from the heart, for the glory of God, and for absolutely no monetary gains of any kind.

Contributions from our TV viewers are used, in fact, to help maintain these weekly telecasts; and through your generosity and financial help, I am able to bring forth such sermons as the one I have prepared for today and entitled: **"LAUNCH OUT INTO THE DEEP."**

Let's just imagine a typical scene, which should include a beautiful seashore, sand gleaming in the sun, water dark blue, sparkling against a light blue sky, two fishing boats drawn up, with sails tied down, men on shore, moving tiredly about, mending their nets.

There is a multitude of people pressing to hear Jesus teaching from the ship. We find the Lord using Peter's boat as a pulpit. This separated Him from the people, but placed Him high enough, so all could see. With water and wind behind Him, a theater effect was created, thus, His powerful voice projected well into the crowd. In all probability the fishermen paused to listen.

When Jesus stopped preaching, He spoke to one of them, Simon, by name. We read in Luke 5:4, "Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught." These awesome words have been quoted often, preached, and used for inspiration. This is a command that may have sounded foolish, indeed to a fishermen, who had fished all night. Simon was the expert fishermen, Jesus of Nazareth was a carpenter.

We read in the 5th verse: "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." Now Peter was a very skilled fishermen. He had been raised on the Sea of Galilee, and he knew those waters, as did a few other men. He knew and understood fishes. He knew their habits, their spawning beds, and their feeding places.

As Luke recorded the incident, years later, he noted that Peter made excuses, "Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing." How easily we determine that God's commands are foolish, without meaning, and make no sense. And deep in our hearts, we begin to doubt, and unbelief sets in. It seems to be our nature to make excuses. We only see

from the human side, from the natural point of view, and so, like Peter, we presumptuously tell Jesus just what the facts are.

At this time let me share the example of the "Parable of the Marriage Feast." The king sent forth his servants to invite the people to come to the wedding, for all things were ready as we read in Matt. 22:5, "But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise."

And we have another example where a man made a great supper and invited many to come to the supper, for all things were ready. We read in Luke 14:18-20, "And they all with one consent began to make excuses: The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of grounds and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, "I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

Please note that the excuses were: possessions (vs. 18), business (vs. 19), and pleasures (vs. 20). There is no question in our everyday lives we are prone to make excuses. However, we still put forth our best efforts, and say "Lord, we tried. We scoured the old places where those before us tried unsuccessfully to preach "The Gospel," and thus, we conclude, "There are no souls to be saved in that area." However, did they give up too easily and fail to meet the challenge that was set before them?

One day Jesus instructed His disciples to go into the towns and the country round about, and lodge, and get food: for they were in desert place. They had similar excuses too. Let us read in Luke 9:13-17, "But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, we have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people. For they were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, Make them sit down by fifties in a company. And they did so, and made them all sit down.

Then he took five loaves and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed them, and brake, and gave to the disciples to set before the multitude. And they did eat, and were all filled: and there was taken up of fragments that remained to them twelve baskets." In other words, the "leftovers" weren't wasted but saved to be consumed another time.

The bright spot in this story lies in the fact that Peter's faith followed on the very heels of his doubt. His faith might have been small but there was something that the Lord saw in Peter. We read in Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that overcometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Sometimes, this matter of faith is difficult to explain, but Paul tried to do so. Let us read in Heb. 11:1-2, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Faith is simply taking God at His word.

The famous "honor roll" of Old Testament persons, who lived, endured, and died in the faith, had from God the testimony that they were pleasing to Him. It is important to remember that God has never had two ways of saving men. Jesus tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Yes, viewers, if you were to ask your friends or loved ones how to get to heaven, you would probably receive as many answers as the number of friends and relatives you ask. Someone would probably suggest that you should keep the Golden Rule; someone else might say that you need to live up to the Ten Commandments; others might advise you to pray, or give to the church and to the poor, or that you should "just do the best you can."

But when you are dealing with something as important as eternal life and heaven, you need more than just seek the opinions of friends; you need the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!

We read of such a truth in John 3:5, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." And in the 7th verse it reads, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again?" That may sound strange to you. What does it mean? Let's look to the Scriptures for an enlightening explanation.

God's Word is very realistic. It teaches that no one can gain entrance into Heaven by good works or even religious practices. The Bible reveals our true condition. We read Roms. 3:10-11, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We are filthy rags in the sight of God, have broken his laws and have not "done our best."

Separated from God and dead in our trespasses and sins, we cannot hope to enter Heaven. We need new lives, cleansed from sin and its penalty. We must be born into a new life; we must be born again.

Jesus came to bring us this new life. We read in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Receiving the life that Jesus can give is what being born again is all about. You can be born again into the family of God by taking on the name of Jesus Christ, as we read in Acts 2:38, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

One must be born of water and of the Spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. To be born of water, is to be baptized by immersion in water, and to be born of the Spirit is to speak in tongues or an unknown language, as cited in the Bible, for it is the only evidence, which can verify one is receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, as we read in Acts 2:4, "and that they were all (i.e. the 120) filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Yes, the baptism of the Holy Ghost is certainly something to see and hear. And why is the name of Jesus Christ so important? Acts 4:12, tells us, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

There is only one Saviour for this lost and dying world, and His name is Jesus, the Almighty God! Therefore, "The Gospel" is good news: Jesus Saves; Jesus heals body and soul; Jesus baptizes with the Holy Ghost and with fire; and Jesus is coming soon and sooner than you think, TV viewers!

Now, let's return to our message where Jesus saw something in Simon Peter. It was his faith. Faith can bring an unexpected miracles. Peter launched out and lowered his nets, as we read in Luke 5:6-7, "And when they had this (i.e. let down the nets) done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their nets 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 they began to sink."

This should remind us that ours, too, is the responsibility of launching out, into the deep, doing what Jesus commands. Not excuses, but action is what we need in today's world! There are three ways in which we can launch out:

(1) Prayer. Too easily we forget the power of this mighty weapon. We read Eph. 6:10 & 17-18, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (That is, be strengthened daily in the Lord's strength.) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Prayer is the strength of "The Gospel" and it's prayer that moves the arm of God, that moves the world.

(2) We should get involved in the work of the Lord and make ourselves and our resources ready for the Lord's service. We must have a willing heart and a willing mind. A rich young ruler had second thoughts, when confronted by the Lord, Who said "Come and follow me, give up all and give to the poor."

We read in Luke 18:23-27, "And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Jesus can take our resources and turn them into miracles, whether we drop our nets in strange waters or turn a few pieces of bread and fishes into a feast for thousands or bring a soul to hear God's Word.

(3) We must walk and live by faith. It is not enough to say, "Yes, Lord, I'm sure there are souls out there in the world." But Jesus wants us to "launch out into the deep." He wants us to put faith in action!

We read Rom. 10:17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Thus, we find Jesus, the resurrected Lord by the seashore, dining with His disciples and having fellowship with them. We also see Him as He dealt with His Chief disciple, Simon Peter. But His words were not only for Peter. They were meant for every true born again Christian.

Listen to the dialogue between Jesus and Peter. Jesus aimed the question directly at Peter's heart, as we find in John 21:15, "So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord: thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs."

Our Lord used a word indicating "to love deeply." It was as though Jesus said, "Do you really love me, Peter, that is, very deeply?" And Peter, remembering His denial of the Lord on the night of His arrest, only dared to say, "Lord, thou knowest that I am very fond of Thee."

He was perhaps afraid to speak too strongly for fear that he might fail again, but the Lord Jesus showed how much He trusted Peter by instructing him to care for the young Christians (the lambs), and the older ones (the sheep).

The thrice repeated question, "Lovest thou Me?" suggests a tender allusion to the Apostle's thrice repeated denial. Jesus was not only our Saviour but a great psychologist as well. Perhaps Jesus really meant, "After all that has happened, do you (referring to Peter) think your heart is better than the hearts of these others?"

Peter needed to know that his strong-headedness and boasting had been sinful. He needed to feel in his heart that he was just a poor weak sinner after all. He needed to become more humble, if he was going to become a faithful and fruitful servant.

Don't we all need to learn the lesson of humility? God's greatest men were all there. They were willing to give God and others the credit and glory for all they had done. Jesus' question was a very simple one, "Lovest thou Me?"

We may know much, do much, talk much, work much, give much and make a great show of what we are doing. However, without love our faith can become like nothing more than the sounding of tinkling brass cymbals.

Jesus said unto Peter, "If you love me, feed my lambs." How could Peter feed the lambs? He could by simply giving them the precious Word of God. In other words, He was to preach "The Gospel of the Kingdom of God," which is, indeed, the bread of life for starving souls. By "lambs" He must have meant the least and the weakest in the flock. They must consume the milk of the Word before they can digest the meat of the Word.

We read in Heb. 5:12-13, "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." Again Jesus came back with the same question, "Lovest thou Me?" And again Peter said, "Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee." This time Jesus said, "Feed my sheep.

"The word "feed" means literally "shepherd my sheep." First, Peter was to feed the sheep on the Word of God, then he was to nurture, discipline, and develop them. Listen to Heb. 5:14, "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

If I asked you, TV viewers, the same question. "Do you love Jesus?" Your answer would be, "Why, certainly I love Him." All right viewers, then do something about it. You can't possibly love anyone without wanting to do something for him. Do, you love Jesus? The least you can do is to come to church instead of sitting at home watching a TV program, sporting event, or just sitting home doing nothing.

We read Heb. 10:25, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."

Do you love Jesus? Then why don't you give your talents, your time, your tithes and offerings to Him to be used in making Him known around the world? Why do you use for yourself, that, which really belongs to Him. I tell you, if every child of God loved Jesus, what a transformation we would see. People all over the world would come to see what true "born-again" Christians have here.

Jesus assigned Peter to preach "The Gospel." The Lord informed Peter that life was not going to be a bed of roses for him. Troubles would beset him on every side, and he would finally meet a violent death. This all came to pass, he was crucified head downwards.

Christ's servants never have an easy life. Not only are their lives filled with burdens, persecutions, mockings, scoffings and responsibilities, such that no other men carry and which can never be laid aside, but they must also suffer criticisms and false accusations.

But that's to be expected: more persecution, more power! Here is what Jesus said in John 16:33, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Yes, many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. Peter once vowed that he would die a martyr's death. Jesus informed Peter thusly, "That is exactly what is in store for you."

We read in John 21:18, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but thou shall be old, thou shall stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not."

Peter became more knowledgeable of the fact, "We are safe in the arms of Jesus." This will just be God's way of taking us to a better land and a better life.

We can glorify Him by testifying to others of the comfort and grace that God is giving us, by saying with David, "I am walking through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Jesus urged and encouraged Peter with the words, "Follow me." Your fishing days are over. You have a more important task now. You are to preach The Gospel of the Kingdom of God." Peter replied, "All right Lord, I will follow you, but what about John? What is he going to do?"

Maybe Peter was just interested in the welfare of his friend, but judging by the reply of Jesus, it seemed there must have been something wrong in this question. "What is that to thee, follow thou Me, and I will make you fishers of men." It was Peter's business to follow Jesus and leave the future of others in God's hands. It doesn't matter what others do. It is a personal mission to follow Jesus and serve Him.

The issue is between the individual and God. The Bible tells us that every man must give an account of himself to God and not an account of someone else.

Yes, TV viewers, you can't stand before God and say, "Lord, I didn't do my part because someone else didn't either." The Lord would perhaps respond, "What others do doesn't excuse you. Follow thou me."

The book of Acts tells us how faithfully Peter followed Jesus. He became not only the "Prince of the Apostles," but a fiery preacher on the Day of Pentecost, a leader in the first church, a man who never looked back, a man who loved his Saviour unto the end. As Jesus tells us in Luke 9:62, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Yes, it's worth all the trouble and persecution just to see Jesus in Heaven and hear His voice. And may we serve Him so well, that at the end of the way, we have some trophies to lay at His feet.

If you would like to know more about God's Word, the Church, and review these telecast presentations in its entirety, please visit our website at Jesuscomingsoon.org

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Pastor Billy Han, Jr., expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

Entire contents of this text © copyright 2026 by The Apostolic Faith Church (Jesus Coming Soon), Honolulu, Hawaii. All rights reserved.