

Never. The. Less.

Echo Church | Week 3 | January 26, 2025 | Rich Saunders Jr.

Luke 5:1-11 (NKJV)

Have you ever had one of those days? The kind of day where nothing seems to work? You gave your best, tried every method, poured out all your energy, and still came up empty. Peter knows exactly what that's like. Luke 5 drops us into Peter's frustrating, futile fishing trip. He worked all night and caught...nothing! Then Jesus shows up, gets into his boat, and does what Jesus does best—brings purpose out of Peter's emptiness.

But what Peter says in verse 5 is where we'll sit for today. After Jesus tells Peter to "launch out into the deep and let down your nets," Peter could've just said, "No." He could've talked about how tired he was, how it made no sense, or how he knew better because he was the fisherman, not Jesus. Instead, Peter says, "Nevertheless, at Your Word I will..."

I want to encourage you to live a nevertheless kind of faith. A faith that obeys even when it's not convenient, when it doesn't make sense, and when it challenges everything in you. Because when you give God your "nevertheless," He turns your nothing into more than enough.

1. Never Give Less—Even When It Doesn't Make Sense

* Scripture Focus: "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will..." (Luke 5:5)

* Peter didn't just give lip service; his nevertheless was action-packed. After a long, exhausting night and nothing to show for it, Peter still said, "I'll give it a try because You said so."

* Life Application: Some of us are bargaining with God—"I'll obey You if it makes sense, if I feel like it, if it fits into my plan." But true obedience isn't conditional; it's surrender.

* Challenge: Stop holding back. Never give God a "half-yes." Step out, launch out, even when it doesn't make sense! When you give your best to God, even after your worst day, He activates miracles.

Illustration: It's like being at the gym and your trainer says, "One more rep!" You didn't show up to feel comfortable. That extra rep—when you feel too weak—is where the growth happens.

Faith works the same way.

2. Trust the Deep, Not the Shallow

* Scripture Focus: "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." (Luke 5:4)

* Jesus didn't ask Peter to stay on the surface. He sent him into the deep! Why? Because the deep requires vulnerability, effort, and trust.

* Life Application: Some of us are so comfortable in the shallow end. We pray shallow prayers, live shallow lives, and give shallow obedience. But the deep? That's where transformation happens. That's where miracles are waiting.

* Challenge: Stop clinging to surface-level faith. God is calling you deeper—deeper devotion, deeper obedience, and deeper trust. Will you go when He calls?

Illustration: Think about swimming lessons. The shallow is easy. But to learn to really swim, you've got to leave the safety of the shore. Sometimes God will move you out of the kiddie pool

of faith and into waters that make you uncomfortable. But that's where your faith finds its strength!

3. Overflow Comes Through Obedience

* Scripture Focus: "And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking." (Luke 5:6)

* The miracle didn't happen because Peter talked about obedience; it happened when he acted on it. His net-breaking, boat-sinking blessing was unlocked by his willingness to obey.

* Life Application: For many of us, the thing God wants to do in our lives is waiting on our obedience. God's provision doesn't come when we feel like it—it comes when we act like it. Your obedience is the key that unlocks the door to overflow.

* Challenge: If you want net-breaking blessings, you've got to give God a nevertheless obedience. When you do what doesn't make sense just because He said so, you position yourself for His abundance.

Picture this—your obedience is like planting a seed. God's Word is the rain. When His instructions "rain" down, the more you obey, the more your seed grows. And before you know it, you're standing in a field of blessings—not because of what you knew, but because you obeyed.

Here's the truth: A "nevertheless" faith always unlocks a "great catch."

* Peter's empty net became full because he decided to obey. What empty areas in your life would be filled if you dared to say nevertheless?

* I want to challenge you today to give God everything—every fear, every doubt, every excuse—and replace it with a nevertheless response.

* Whether you've toiled all night or feel like giving up, remember—obedience always produces abundance.

Call to Action What "net" do you need to drop at His Word? What "deep" is He calling you to launch into? Whatever it is, I dare you to trust Him. Lean in. Launch out. And never give Him less! Nevertheless, at Your Word...