

Nevertheless at Thy Word

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.

*“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” (Luke 5:1-11).*

Peter was a professional, experienced, seasoned fisherman, and he had toiled all night without catching anything. He was done; he and his partners had already come to shore and cleaned their nets. It was at this time that the Lord Jesus Christ arrived giving the command,

“Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught” (Luke 5:4).

Peter was so tired, for he had worked all night. Peter had already cleaned his nets. How greatly all of Peter’s being must have cried out for him not to launch out again! His professional

experience must have cried, “No!” His weary mind, body, heart – every core part of him – must have demanded a compelling “No!” Every fiber of his being must have been in active protest. After all, what does the son of a carpenter really know about fishing anyway?

Peter’s response was truly amazing. By faith he said,

*“Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: **nevertheless at Thy Word** I will let down the net”* (Luke 5:5).

We can find great encouragement as we remember the circumstances which surround his astounding words, “*Nevertheless at Thy Word ...*” Despite his experience, training, feelings and exhaustion, his response was one of simple faith and trust in the words of the Lord.

The result was equally astounding.

“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” (Luke 5:6-7).

There was a super-abundance of fish of such a multitude that their net broke under the strain of their weight. They needed assistance from their partners. Their catch was so great that two ships were filled.

Here is a lesson for us. We, too, should believe God over everything else – over our training, our intellect, our experiences, our circumstances and our feelings. Though all of the very core of our beings may cry and protest to the contrary, we can respond, “*Nevertheless at Thy Word ...*”

Like Simon Peter, we can say regarding the circumstances of our lot in life,

*“Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: **nevertheless at Thy Word** I will let down the net”* (Luke 5:5).

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