

May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen

One of my mother's favorite sayings was, "Because I said so, that's why!"

and most of the time it was in response to one of us whining about one thing or another.

Mom, why do I have to do this? Because I said so, that's why  
Mom, why does he get to go first? Because I said so, that's why  
Mom, why can't I go to the party? All the other kids parents are letting them go.  
Because I said so, that's why.

But as I got older, I was less and less likely to accept that line without question  
too often I thought I knew better....

Peter thought he knew better too.  
And he had good reason to question Jesus  
He, along with the other disciples, were professional fisherman.  
They had done this their whole lives,  
their fathers had done it before them.

They knew fishing  
and they knew that lake  
and they knew darn well that the fish weren't biting.

Put yourself in Peter's place.  
None of us appreciate a know-it-all telling us how to do our job..  
Even if it is Jesus.

Peter knew Jesus. Peter respected Jesus.  
But come on...  
Was Peter supposed to go against his better judgment just because Jesus said so?

His first attempt is to reason with Jesus  
Master, we have been working all night and have caught nothing"

Peter tells Jesus "been there, done that"

I wonder how often we have said the same thing to Jesus....  
Look Jesus, we already tried that years ago and it didn't work.  
Lord, we hear what you're saying, but we're tired.  
Please God, we just wanted to come here this morning, and do our duty, and have a nice little worship  
experience. We didn't expect that you would actually ask us to do something with it.

We say....."Master, we have been working all night and have caught nothing"

and how often are we tempted to close down the conversation right there?  
To rationalize, and analyze, and theorize about why it won't work  
that's our human nature.

To rely on our own knowledge  
To trust our own experience.

Peter was no different.  
He didn't want to go back out into that water.  
He didn't believe that it would do any good.

Yet, something made him agree to Jesus' request,  
Maybe it was the tone of Jesus' voice.  
Maybe it was the love in his eyes.  
May be it was the fact that Peter had just witnessed Jesus heal his mother-in-law.

we will never know exactly what it was,  
all we know is that Peter agreed to follow Jesus' request, even  
against his own better judgment.

Peter tells Jesus, "Lord, I already know that this isn't going to work.  
But because you say so, I will do it.  
Peter told Jesus he would do it not because he expected to catch anything,  
instead, he did it for the sake of their relationship itself.

And look what happened!  
when they let down the nets, the catch was so large that the nets break from the load.  
And upon witnessing this miraculous event,  
Peter immediately recognizes his unworthiness,  
he recognizes his lack of faith.  
He recognizes how he put limitations on God.

### How many times have we placed limitations on God?

How many times have we failed to do what Jesus asks of us because we are  
skeptical or afraid?  
How many times have we thought that we knew better?

We are no different than Peter...  
too often we doubt what God can do.  
Too often we are skeptical of Jesus' power in our lives

But what our text reminds us this morning,  
is that our relationship with God is not dependent on OUR worthiness,  
instead it is based on Jesus' worthiness.  
Our relationship with God is not based on our power,  
instead, it is based on God's power.

and God's power is limitless...  
no matter how many times we try to limit God's work by our own insecurities,  
fears, and doubts,  
God's power cannot be diminished.  
God loves us and God can use us, even in spite of ourselves.

Even when we lose faith in God,  
God never loses faith in us.  
Even when we doubt, God can still use us for God's mission in the world  
even when we are skeptical, God can still use us to do amazing things.

We don't have to have a perfect faith for God to use us,  
but we do have to do one thing.  
We have to obey. We have to respond.  
We have to say, "Lord, because you say so, I will do it"

you know, after all my questioning to my parents,  
I usually ended up doing what they asked me to do.  
And in some instances it wasn't until years later,  
when my parents got smarter,  
that I had some understanding of why they asked me to do the things they did.

even when we may not fully understand why God is calling us to a particular path or  
task,

Sometimes we just need to follow.

Sometimes we just need to let go of our own plans,  
sometimes we need to risk one more failure,  
sometimes we have to go and do what our common sense tells us cannot be done

Sometimes we just need to head out into the deep waters and let down our  
nets

for no better reason than because Jesus has asked us to do so.

The crowds remained on the safety of the shore,  
but the disciples were called to take a risk and put out into deeper waters,

today, we are being called to put out into deeper water....  
we are being called to venture away from the shoreline,  
away from our comfort zones,  
and go out to deeper waters,  
go out where there is more risk,  
but also more opportunities to grow and share God's saving love.

We are being called to put out into deeper water....

why?

Because Jesus said so, that's why! Amen