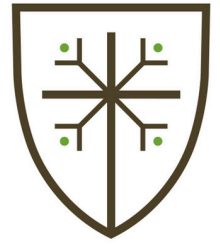


SERMON NOTES



BREAKING INTO OUR
MONOLOGUE
EPIPHANY 2026 SERMON SERIES

January 25, 2026

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"Out Into the Deep"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Isaiah 9:1-4

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Luke 5:1-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are you part of the crowd or are you following Jesus out into the deep?
2. What is a place in your life that you can let Jesus invade?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

Tim reminds us, on this third Sunday of Epiphany, that the season is about seeing Jesus more clearly, which allows us to see ourselves more clearly, both how we are and what we can be. Renewed vision combats laziness and procrastination in our spiritual lives by renewing our sense of urgency in our relationship with God. Jesus' calling of Peter in the Gospel of Luke illustrates the urgency and its fruits well.

The Crowd

Many Christians say that they come to Christ, when the reality is that Christ comes to us. This fact is evident given the place we find ourselves living in and worshipping today: Austin, one of the most secular cities in the country. With Austin's top rankings in sexual immorality, divorce rates, and drinking rates, it seems like an anomaly, then, that all listening to the sermon and are partaking in ancient Christian wisdom are doing so despite all odds predicting otherwise. We are called from the Austin crowd to follow after Christ. But what is the crowd?

The crowd is a recurring character in the gospel of Luke, and their behavior, too, is recurring: demanding something from Jesus yet never changing, pressing in, joining in on the calls to crucify the son of God, and more. In the gospel passage, we see a change occurring in Peter when he is called out of the crowd. There were many boats, but Jesus picked Peter's. It is this deeper, more personal interaction where Christ works and invades our lives.

The Invasion

Jesus first asked Peter to go out a little. The request is subtle, but even then Jesus is gaining a foothold in Peter's life. But with that foothold, Jesus will take over completely. The next direction Jesus gives Peter is a command to go out into the deep, a place associated with chaos and danger. But, in verse 8, the deep is the place that Simon Peter changes: "but when Simon Peter saw it." "It" could be many things, the size of the catch, the miraculous nature of the catch of fish, but really, it is seeing the one who made the miracle happen.

The Change

In the Old Testament, we see that direct encounters with God's glory elicit the response of begging, in a manner of complete submission, that the Lord retreats and has mercy. We see Peter begin to respond this way, though Jesus's mercy looks different. He draws nearer, forgives Peter, and changes the fisherman to be more like him. In doing so, Peter no longer looks to what the world can give him—a career pinnacle catch, a catch that could bring him anywhere from one to ten years' wages, and any other worldly success. Instead, Peter looks at God and the mercy that once terrified him and lets God in.

Tim calls us to apply Peter's Epiphany perspective of Jesus in two ways. First is to have what the world gives differently. This was true of the once-in-a-lifetime catch for Peter where he walked away from worldly success and towards Jesus. If we let anything other than God be our priority, it will have us. Let God reorient your perspective so that He has you instead. Second, the change in Peter happened in the deep, the place of chaos, fear, suffering, and lack of control. We need to embrace the risks of life so that we can embrace God more fully. Stop playing it safely with God and push out into the deep with him.