

Reluctant Obedience

Living the Liturgical Year

Luke 5:1-11

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." **Luke 5:4-6, 8-10**

REFLECTION

In this week's passage, Jesus calls his first disciples – regular men going through the routine of their regular day. Read through the text and note that Jesus himself does not produce the miracle, but enables the fisherman to catch the fish themselves. Peter is brought to his knees and deems himself unworthy to be in Jesus' presence. **Why does Peter respond this way? Have you been brought to your knees by experiencing Jesus working through you?**

Peter and his partners are night fishermen, with nets designed for nighttime fishing only. Imagine their despair and exhaustion at having worked all night with no reward for their efforts. God finds us, too, during our darkest of times, no matter how far away from him we might feel. **When have you been surprised by God bringing you out of a dark time? What are some tools that help you through dark times (reading psalms, connecting with a friend, praying)?**

God uses us in ways that our mortal minds can't often comprehend. Peter could have never imagined himself, a simple fisherman, becoming one of the most important figures in Christian history. **When has God surprised you by equipping you for a task you would have never thought possible? How is he calling you to bravely step into something new this year?**

Lord, we thank you for your timeless word through scripture. Enable us to hear your call, no matter how far-fetched it might seem. Thank you for seeking us in our darkness and despair, and help us to be strong enough to call on you through prayer and those whom you place in our lives. Amen.