

Daily Reading & Meditation

Scripture: *Luke 5:1-11* Sunday (February 10): "You will catch people for the kingdom of God"

1 While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. 2 And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." 5 And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, 7 they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Meditation: Why did Jesus perform the miracle of the great catch of fish? No doubt the great crowd of people who had pressed upon Jesus had something to do with this miracle. They were very hungry for God and were eager to hear his word. Jesus wanted to use this occasion to teach his disciples an important lesson. Although Simon was wearied from a night of fruitless toil, he nonetheless did what the Lord Jesus told him to do: *At your word I will let down the nets.* When you meet disappointment and failure, do you press upon the Lord, like Simon, to hear his word and to receive his command?

God expects greater things than we can do by ourselves

This incident tells us an important truth about how God works in and through each of us for his glory. God expects of us greater things than we can do by ourselves. When we cooperate in *his* works, we accomplish far beyond what we can do on our own. Therese of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun who died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty-four, wrote to a friend: "Jesus has so incomprehensible a love for us that he wills that we have a share with him in the salvation of souls. He wills to do nothing without us. The Creator of the universe awaits the prayer of a poor little soul to save other souls redeemed like it at the price of all his Blood."

When God's word is spoken his kingdom is revealed and his power is released. When people respond to God's word with faith and obedience they are changed and made "a new creation" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Witness the joy of the Gospel

God chooses ordinary people, like you and me, as his ambassadors and he uses the ordinary circumstances of our daily lives and work situations to draw others into his kingdom. Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we will "catch people" for the kingdom of God if we allow the light of Jesus Christ to shine through us. God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the Gospel. Paul the Apostle says,

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ Jesus always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:15).

Do you witness to those around you the joy of the Gospel and do you pray for your neighbours, co-workers, and relatives that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and grow in the knowledge of his love and truth?

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OPENING PRAYER:-

"Lord Jesus, fill my heart with love and compassion for those who do not know you or follow you. May I be a good witness of your truth and salvation to my family, friends, and co-workers" **Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER:- "Accident , Flood or Deliberate."

We pray for all whose lives that have been touched by tragedy, whether by accident, flood or a deliberate act. For those who mourn, immerse them in your love and lead them through this darkness into your arms, and light. For those who comfort, be in both the words they use and all that's left unspoken; fill each heart with love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, whose own suffering brought us life, here and for eternity. **Amen.**

From our Church News Letter

Our Gospel today reports a scenario where Peter and other Apostles were fishing the whole night but caught nothing. Their nets were just filled with **debris and rubbish** instead of fish. And what are those nets? Those nets are the way that the apostles make their living. Those nets are their instruments for their relationship to the world and to life and they get dirty. They accumulate all sorts of completely useless things that get in the way. These men are feeling frustrated this morning. They've worked all the night and taken nothing. They've caught no fish, but their nets are filled of useless debris, and the men feel frustration and failure. **Now there are times, and it's important to recognize the times, when each of us is called to sit down and clean out the net**—all the useless things that our hearts and minds have accumulated. You know, our minds are a lot like crows. They pick up anything that glitters to put in the nest and before long the nest is not even liveable. There are people whose souls are that way; whose hearts have that affliction. It comes from living in the world and doing the things that we must do in the world. We accumulate all manner of useless nonsense. The apostles had an advantage over us. We have things like computers and televisions, other things to keep pouring into our souls what most of the time, at least lot of the time, is simply raw garbage, worse than empty beer cans. We become aware that our nets are full of trash. Our lives are full of junk, and junky thoughts, junky sentiments, and junky attachments. It's important from time to time that we sit down and clean out the nets. The Church, for example, gives us liturgical seasons which are devoted to net cleaning. We'll be starting one of those in mid-November. The church gives us that time to clean our nets—not to put up Christmas trees. That's for Christmas, it's not for Advent. Advent is a time for cleaning the net. Lent is a time for cleaning the net. In fact, the church even has a net cleaning session twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays. These are times to examine the conscience, go through the soul and find out what in here is just a waste of time getting in my way and keeping me from catching fish and living a life that is pleasing to God.

Besides these seasonal times for cleaning nets each of us has particular times when we know it's the occasion to clean the net. It's important that we recognize these times in our lives when the Lord wants us to make an evaluation, to take an inventory of our souls, and to get rid of things that don't belong there, should not be there and that are of no use to us. **Author :- Fr Marce**