

TRINITY 5

Text Luke 5:1-11

The Calling of the First Disciples

¹One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, ^[a]with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, ²he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. ³He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.

⁴When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down ^[b] the nets for a catch."

⁵Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

⁶When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. ⁷So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

⁸*When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"* ⁹*For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken,* ¹⁰*and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.*

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." ¹¹*So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.*

So what does it take to leave everything and follow Him? Certainly in the case of the first disciples it took a miracle. Peter, James and John were doing just what they had done all their lives. No doubt what their fathers before them had done. They were simple fisherman and on this day, apparently not very lucky ones.

Here in the first days of His ministry, our Lord calls out to them and shows them through a simple miracle that indeed He was more than just another passing preacher. They were astounded at the catch and realized that this man was someone very special. Peter calls Him Lord, knowing somehow instinctively that this man must be blessed of God, for who else could perform such a miracle. This simple act, on their fishing boat, was sufficient to compel them to drop what they were doing, leave what they had known, and follow this unusual man who filled their nets in a moment, after they had caught nothing all day. It was, to say the least, impressive, and it caught their attention.

So, what does it take to get our attention? What miracle is necessary to bring us around? I ask this question because all too often I cannot help but wonder what we are really thinking of as we go through life, doing our thing, and acting so often as if God does not really exist.

St. Peter would later write to the new Christians in Asia minor the words found in the text of his first epistle.

⁸Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. ⁹Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. ¹¹He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it. ¹²For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."^[a]

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear what they fear^[b]; do not be frightened."^[c] ¹⁵But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷It is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. (1 Peter 3:8-18)