

Epiphany 5C

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The Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 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. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. 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." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

The Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Familiar themes—fishing, following—jumble of familiar themes and familiar characters that appear in different places and combinations in different gospels.

Sunday School Song:

Peter, James and John in a sailboat 3x (LUKE)

Out on the deep blue sea

Fished all night and they caught no fishes 3x (LUKE & JOHN)

Out on the deep blue sea

*****Christ came walking down by the water 3x (ONLY IN JOHN)***

Out on the deep blue sea

Now their nets are full and breaking 3x (LUKE AND JOHN)

Out on the deep blue sea

Called their friends to come and help them 3x (LUKE AND JOHN)

Out on the deep blue sea

ELEMENTS APPEAR IN ALL 4 GOSPELS:

Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20, Luke 5:1-11, John 21:1-25

GENRE?

Depends on which version of the story you're reading!

Call Narrative? Resurrection Narrative?

Miracle Story? Eucharistic Miracle Story?

Matthew & Mark: Call Narrative: Jesus is walking alongside the Sea of Galilee, and he sees the fishermen out fishing, and calls them saying “Follow Me”: first Simon and Andrew, then James and John, and immediately they drop everything and follow

John Resurrection Narrative and Eucharistic Miracle: Jesus is standing on the beach of the Sea of Tiberias, post-Resurrection appearance “Breakfast on the Beach”

Luke: Standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd is pushing in on him, so he “commandeers” Simon’s boat and pushes out into the water to teach the crowd. Luke combines characters and elements from all these stories to tell his own unique MIRACULOUS, EUCHARISTIC, RESURRECTION, CALL STORY.

Today’s Gospel is a MIRACULOUS, EUCHARISTIC, RESURRECTION, STORY OF How Jesus called Simon and James and John.

Today’s Gospel is also a MIRACULOUS, EUCHARISTIC, RESURRECTION, LESSON ABOUT how Jesus continues to call each one of us to follow him...and take our part in God’s mission in the world.

AND IT’S WORTH PAYING ATTENTION. Folks feeling overwhelmed and frightened and exhausted and discouraged, and confused and unsure about where God is and what God is calling them to do.

Today’s Gospel Story is a Lesson about how God appears and helps us find a way forward when we need it most—and when we least expect it!

[If I were to try to summarize it, I'd say...
Today's Gospel story is a Lesson about how
Jesus comes to us, and dwells with us, and calls us to follow him in
our moments of greatest Exhaustion, Frustration, Fear, Scarcity
Today's Gospel Story is Lesson about how
Jesus' presence with us and Jesus' call to us provokes within us,
At first, perhaps, even MORE fear
But then, alongside the fear,
Jesus' presence and call expands our capacity for
Patience, Perseverance, Trust, Obedience
Which enables God to work miracles that lead us towards
Wonder, and Amazement,
And also Humility and Repentance that leads us
to acknowledge our profound need for one another
And requires us reach out to connect with our community
to ask for, and accept, and offer help
Which opens the way for the further revelation
God's awesome Power and God's abundant Provision
Which in turn equips us with the Faith and the Courage we need
To welcome Jesus into our boat
Then do whatever he tells us
To let go and
To follow Jesus whenever, wherever he calls us next.]

So let's just work our way through today's Gospel Lesson again, bit by bit, taking the text and listening for lessons as they come, one by one. 10 Lessons (like the 10 Commandments) Not every lesson is for you—listen for the lesson YOU need to hear today—the lesson God invites YOU to learn...

LESSON 1:

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

Sunday School Song: PETER AND JAMES AND JOHN IN A SAILBOAT....

If we pay attention to Luke's Gospel, the song should be a little different Jesus GETS INTO SIMON'S BOAT, then with Simon's help, pushes out from the shore.

#1: (In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is NOT looking on from the shore) JESUS IS TEACHING FROM HIS POSITION, OUT ON THE WATER, *IN THE SAME BOAT WITH HIS DISCIPLES*

Our Song might be: JESUS AND YOU AND ME IN A SAILBOAT...

LESSON 2

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

#2 JESUS CALLS US TO DEEP WATER, JESUS CALLS US TO TRY AGAIN

LESSON 3

Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing."

#3 JESUS' CALL COMES EVEN (perhaps especially?) WHEN WE ARE FRUSTRATED AND EXHAUSTED AND DISCOURAGED

LESSON 4

*Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. **Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.**"*

#4 OBEDIENCE (LISTENING, AND ACTING; "TRY AGAIN")

Faith "does not come as assent to statements previously preached, but as trust in Jesus' call to try once more, contrary to all dictates of reason."
(Eduard Schwiezer, FOTW, C1, p. 337)

How is this different from banging your head against a brick wall? The persistence is not driven by your EGO, the persistence is driven by JESUS' COMMAND.

LESSON 5

*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.***

#5 THINGS CAN CHANGE IN AN INSTANT; THE IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES POSSIBLE, GOD ANSWERS PRAYERS ABUNDANTLY!!!!

Glory to God whose power working within us can do abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine!

LESSON 6

*they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. **So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.***

#6 GOD'S POWER & PROVISION DRIVES US TO REACH OUT AND ASK FOR HELP—DRIVES US TOWARD COMMUNITY

LESSON 7

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.

#7 AMAZEMENT, FEAR, UNWORTHINESS

LESSON 8

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid

“Do not be afraid” is not the same as “Do not feel fear.”

(FNV: Do not give yourself over to fear)

#8 JESUS GIVES US AN ALTERNATIVE TO BEING CONTROLLED BY FEAR

LESSON 9

*Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid, **from now on you will be catching people.**"*

*#9 JESUS RECONFIGURES OUR VISION OF OURSELVES
JESUS IS ALWAYS EXPANDING AND TRANSFORMING
OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
WHO WE ARE
AND THE WORK WE ARE CALLED TO DO*

LESSON 10:

***When they had brought their boats to shore,
they left everything
and followed him.***

*#10 JESUS GIVES US
THE COURAGE TO LET GO...
AND THE FREEDOM TO FOLLOW*

CONCLUSION

May you carry some lesson from today's Gospel story with you, as you move into the rest of your week, as you continue to listen to Jesus' call, Welcome him into your boat, Push out into deep water

May this story guide and encourage you as you continue to participate in this MIRACULOUS, EUCHARISTIC, RESURRECTION, CALL STORY, of which you are an indispensable PART.