



Daily Reflections

September 7, 2017

Scripture

Luke 5: 1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.

He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.

Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.

Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,

"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Simon said in reply,

"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.

They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them.

They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee,

who were partners of Simon.
Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching men."
When they brought their boats to the shore,
they left everything and followed him.

Our Scripture Reflection

Upon encountering Jesus, the astute, professional fisherman, Simon Peter, experiences a radical transformation. And what brought the transformation about? He surrendered to Jesus' command and call. In other words, Peter turned his life over completely to the Lord.

Food for your Journey

Mark Galli says that "God loves you and has a difficult plan for your life." In his book, *Jesus Mean and Wild: The Unexpected Love of an Untamable God*, Galli says, "The message isn't mentioned in tracts or best-selling books. It isn't proclaimed in praise choruses or PowerPoint sermons. We've heard plenty about the god-of-the-wonderful-plan and the god-of-possibility-thinking And in every age, lots of people follow the god-who-will-do-well-by-me-if-I-do-well-by-him.

"But the God who plans to make our lives difficult? And if he really loves us, he makes our lives really difficult? Yet according to the gospels, especially Mark, this seems to be '[t]he beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ' (Mark 1:1).

"... This is not a world for shallow people with soft character. It needs tested, toughened disciples who are prepared, like their Lord, to descend into hell to redeem the lost" (21-22, 31).

A Prayer from the Heart

Precious Lord, I surrender my life to You and Your desires for me. Help me to trust You in all things. Amen.