



Daily Reflection

September 6, 2018

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

He was an experienced fisherman who made his livelihood by fishing. You can imagine he would be skeptical initially when Jesus who wasn't a fisherman gives him direction. Notice how Simon turns from being a skeptic to a man of humble and profound faith! Today's Gospel reading is so much more than a fishing miracle story. Simon illustrates the humble response of someone who truly encounters the Lord: He falls on his knees aware of his unworthiness. To be confronted with Absolute Love and Goodness leaves us feeling keenly aware of how unloving and sinful we are. But Jesus does not want Simon (or us) getting stuck there. He wants us cleansed and healed because He has work for us to do.

Food for your Journey

In *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters*, writer Annie Dillard talks about spiritual power and argues that we really don't know what we're talking about:

"On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea of what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies' straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews."

—Annie Dillard, "Expedition to the Pole," in *Teaching a Stone to Talk* (New York: HarperCollins, 1982), 40.

Dear Jesus, I become crippled by my sins. The awareness of my sinfulness before You makes me feel unworthy of Your love. Forgive me, Lord. Restore

me to a state of Grace so that I can live as the person You created me to be.
Amen