

Daily Reflections



The Divine Intervention

February 7, 2016

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

Oh well, another day and no fish (or dollars) for Simon and his crew. That is, until Jesus gets in the boat with him. Simon, although not really knowing Jesus that well at the time, had the good sense to follow His command and everything....his entire life, changed forever! Notice Simon's immediate response to the miraculous catch: he fell down on his knees, a gesture of unworthiness before The Lord. That's how it is so often with us. We have a difficult time believing that The Lord is calling us. Our first response often is, "No, surely not me!" But if not you, then whom???? Please note: those who were called by the Lord were not scholars, bankers, lawyers or doctors. They were neither the bravest nor the brightest. Why did the Lord call such a seemingly "insufficient" group of people? Because with His piercing spiritual eyes, He could see directly through them and into their hearts and what He saw was enough. His Grace would fill in all of the spiritual "pot holes." And so it is with you. The Lord's Grace is powerful. When He calls, we must respond.

Food for your Journey

Many years ago a little boy in the U.S.A. was badly burnt in a school fire. So severe was the damage to his limbs and muscles that the doctors predicted that he would never walk again. To his good luck, however, that little boy had a mother, who, though illiterate, was staunch in her Christian faith. Against all odds she believed her son would recover and get well. Day after day, sometimes for hours, that devoted mother would massage the scarred, seemingly lifeless legs of her little boy, even as he cried with pain, and would say to him: "Don't worry, my boy, you will not only walk someday, but you will run." To the cynical and the pessimistic, that was mere wishful thinking, in fact absolute nonsense. But that

noble mother firmly believed her son was going to be victor and not the vanquished. And he was – in 1934 he set the world’s record for running a mile in 4 minutes 6.7 seconds. His name? Glen Cunningham!

After spending entire night fishing without success, the apostle Peter, a seasoned fisherman, was very disappointed and depressed. He was ready to brand himself a failure. Then Jesus who was not a fisherman stepped in and urged him not to give up but try another strategy. So Peter could choose between being branded a failure or hailed a success. And Peter decided wisely on the latter – he was going to be a victor and not the vanquished. In the words of a Yiddish saying, “From success to failure is one step. From failure to success is a long road.” (James Valladares in *Your Words O Lord, are Spirit and They Are Life*; quoted by Fr. Botelho).

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, as I prepare to enter the journey called Lent, give me the Grace I need to repent of my sinfulness and to turn my life in the direction of Your calling to me. Like Simon, may I go where You direct. Amen.



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