



Luke 5:1-11

1 Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, **2** when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. **3** He got into one of the boats – it was Simon’s – and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

4 When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, ‘Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.’ **5** ‘Master,’ Simon replied, ‘we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.’ **6** And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, **7** so they signalled to their companions in the other boats to come and help them; when these came, they filled the two boats to sinking point.

8 When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, ‘Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man.’ **9** For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; **10** so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon’s partners. But Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.’ **11** Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Other readings: Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 137 (138) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke sometimes presents the gospel stories in a different order from Mark and Matthew. This is the case with this story of the call of the first disciples, which he places after the visits to Nazareth and Capernaum. The story is also fuller than the short accounts in Mark and Matthew. Jesus is preaching ‘the word of God’ when he gets into Simon’s boat in order to teach the crowds from there. The miracle of the enormous catch of fish gives further background to the call of Simon Peter.

Luke makes clear that the disciples had already heard the preaching of Jesus and witnessed his miracles when they left everything to follow him. They respond ‘at the Lord’s word’. They ‘hear the word and put it into practice’.

Simon Peter is deeply aware of his unworthiness, an echo of the call of the prophet Isaiah in the first reading. Jesus responds, ‘Do not be afraid.’ These words are heard repeatedly in the Scriptures when a person is called to take up a mission for God.

Does hearing the word of God make a difference in my life?

Am I able to trust the words of Christ ‘Do not be afraid’?

Let us pray for the courage needed to respond to our vocation.

We ask for the wisdom, courage and love to be ‘fishers of men’.