

Leaving Our Nets Behind

Larry King was once quoted as saying:

"I make a living by asking questions. That's a heck of a way to make a living!"

Larry also once observed that before every interview he had a carefully prepared list of questions, a script of sorts. However, first he had to listen to the person being interviewed. And once he started listening, he often let go of the script. *Listening* brought a whole new awareness and a new set of questions.

Sunday's gospel tells us that Jesus called Simon, Andrew, James and John. Jesus called them by name and invited them to follow him (Mark 1: 14-20).

That moment changed the direction of their lives.

But in order to follow Jesus they had to "leave their nets behind." They had to be willing to "let go." They would need to abandon the old script.

To live as a Christian is not about trying to escape the world. Nor is it about avoiding what's tough and difficult in life.

No. To be a Christian, a disciple of Jesus is to recognize that *before I can begin to change the world around me, I have to work on changing the world inside me.*

So, what am I willing to leave behind?

What "nets" of resentment, anger or prejudice are tripping me up? What habits or relationships keep entangling me?

Those nets can be tricky! We can get caught and tangled in ways that keep us from discovering the more abundant life that Christ is calling us to live.

The church is the community where folks help each other to "disentangle" from the nets.

Larry King made a living by asking questions and often setting aside the script. Each of us makes a living in our own way. But all of us are called to abandon the "nets" that keep us from being Christ for one another.

"Discipleship is the process of becoming who Jesus would be, if he were you."

Pray for the grace to become what God is calling you to be.

Fr. Steven Labaire