

**22<sup>nd</sup> Thursday | 2021**

**Colossians 1:9-14**

*Brothers and sisters: From the day we heard about you, we do not cease praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, so as to be fully pleasing, in every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with every power, in accord with his glorious might, for all endurance and patience, with joy giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance of the holy ones in light.*

*He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Psalms 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6**

*The LORD has made his salvation known: in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.*

*He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness toward the house of Israel.*

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation by our God.  
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands; break into song; sing praise.  
Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.*

**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.*



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*Master... at your command...*

That's the climax of our story. That is when the decision was made. The very dramatic catch of more fish than could barely be handled... is a mere consequence.

To get to our climax, we need to back up a bit in our story.

Can you relate to Peter when he says he and the boys were up all night and had caught nothing?

This isn't fishing like I how I fish for sport and fun. There are times I've been disappointed about getting no bites.

But these are professional fisherman. If they don't catch fish, they don't get paid. If they don't get paid, they might not eat or be able to pay for their families' needs.

Can we imagine Peter's heavy heart?

Maybe in listening to Jesus' preaching, he was encouraged. Maybe some hope was inspired. But, imagine how Peter may have felt when Jesus turned to him and touched a sore spot: "Let's go fishing."

But, of course, that is not quite how Jesus said it. Peter replied, "*at your command I will lower the nets.*" Jesus speaks with authority. The following miraculous catch gives hint of whose authority.

Peter was likely emotionally down and physically exhausted after a fruitless night's work. He was encouraged by the Holy Word. He responded to the call. He went into action and had the front row, hands on experience of witnessing a miracle... the cause of which was unmistakable.

Have you ever had one of those-kind-of days when your best was brought to nothing? Have you ever encountered God's whisper of encouragement? Have you experienced things being made right, beyond your highest expectations?

This is more than just you doing your part and then God doing His. Many times, we act as if we can handle the little, daily stuff, but turn to God to take care of the big things.

"Let me take care of the paycheck. With my strength, intelligence and wit, I can handle the workplace, but when my child comes down with cancer, well, that's what I offer up to God."

To be sure, God wants, just as badly as we do, to be invited into our greatest despairs and fears.

But, God wants us also to invite him into every detail and affair of daily life. We are called to allow God into our every thought and aspiration.

Our selfishness gets in the way... way too often. That's why we go to His sacraments to open our hearts, open our hearts and further open our hearts to his abundant, extravagant graces.

Allow God to fill our small nets as well as our great nets. Jesus commands me... commands you: "*Put out into deep water and lower your nets.*"

Fr. Fitz (God rest his soul) used to tell me, "Pat, get God there and get out of His way."

God does not do this alone. We can't just sit back and expect that God's got it covered. God chooses to wait for us to get him there. If we do not act, we leave God hanging.

The Red Sea does not part until Moses raises his staff!

*"Master... at your command I will lower the nets."*

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