



# Breaking Open the Word

## - 2022 -

**February 6, 2022**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Lectionary: 75**

### **Gospel Lk 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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### **Spiritual Ponderings:**

I am always amazed at how people feel the need to explain why they committed the sins they did in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Nowhere in the ritual is this called for and I am afraid that this is somehow an unconscious attempt of their part to beg (earn or win by pleading for it) for God's mercy when God simply desires to give it to them. Peter simply says "Lord, I am a sinful man." And Jesus forgives him and makes Peter a co-worker with him. All that is required for forgiveness is a contrite heart and a willingness to ask God for it in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### **Spiritual Questions**

1. Why is God so forgiving?
2. When was the last time you went to Confession?
3. If you avoid the Sacrament why? If you go often – do you thank God for His mercy?
4. What helps you recognize your sinfulness?
5. How can experiencing God's mercy help your faith develop?