



Cast Your Net – Again

Devotion

Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” ... Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will catch men” (Luke 5:5, 10).

The call to discipleship did not end with the Twelve. Each one of us blessed by faith through the gift of the Spirit is also both called and enabled by God to follow our leader, Jesus. Will you trust Him to make you one of His “fishermen”?

Jesus’ request to fish in the morning, of all times, was unusual. Everyone knew you fished at night! Peter, however, was willing, even though as a pro he “knew” it wouldn’t work. When have you responded like that to a “nudge” from the Spirit to speak to someone about Jesus’ love? “I already tried, Lord, and got nothing.” Add: “But, I’m willing to try again.” It is good to remember God’s timing is perfect! Many times, a day of fishing, like a day you have planned to speak to a friend, turns out to be just “a nice day on the water.” Other times it is cold and windy and seems fruitless. Try not to let these setbacks deter you from the desire to share the best news ever with one you love.

What else can we learn from this passage? Jesus told Peter to go out to “the deep water” and to “use the nets.” A good fisherman knows – make that learns – what kind of bait or lure to use, how deep to set the line, what time of day or night is best, etc. As a “fisher of men” we must learn from the Master who, what, when, and where we are to “fish.” Think about what method you have tried in the past to share the life-giving message of God’s amazing grace. Why did or didn’t it work? What can you try next? Pray for God’s idea, His plan of action, and His timing. Peter later wrote: *But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect ...* (1 Peter 3:15, 16).

Are you “prepared”? Prayerfully write down some notes of what you would like to be able to say on the spur of the moment. Add some more thoughts as they come to you and pray for an opportunity to practice your love of Jesus in words and deeds.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, enable me to faithfully and joyfully express my love for You and the sure hope only You can give. May I continue my preparation so that I will be ready to cast my line to tell others that they, too, can: *Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you* (1 Peter 5:7). Amen.

[Additional Note: Following Jesus’ call to discipleship to Peter, James, and John (Luke 5:1-11), Luke writes about a man with leprosy begging, “*Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.*” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “*I will; be clean*” (Luke 5:12-13 ESV). This puts new meaning to a church sign I saw: “You catch ‘em, He’ll clean ‘em!”]

Scripture references are from the NIV unless otherwise noted.

Cast Your Net – Again by Rita Soeken, Evansville, Indiana
Published by Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 2015
lwml.org