

Daily Devotional, February 12, 2021 Gone Fishing

Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. Luke 5:10-11 (NIV)

*Lord, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.
O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling have spoken my name;
now my boat’s left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.*

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore, by Casareo Gabarain. This song was a reflection on the calling of the disciples around the lake of Gennesaret. Casareo spent many days in ministry around this place where Jesus also worked. In the gospel of Luke, Jesus extends the call to ministry and to follow him to his first disciples. It is on the shore of this lake that Jesus calls to Peter, James and John to come and follow. Jesus told them, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”

From this song we learn one very important lesson. As the people of God, we are called to humbly take the love and grace we have experienced and share it with the world. Jesus’ disciples left behind their boats, the work they knew and even their homes to follow Jesus. As they walked with him, they learned of his great love for the world. Jesus had established His authority in their lives—He met them on their level and helped them in their work. From this point on, they left their nets and remained with Jesus. Soon, Jesus would send the disciples out to tell others about what they had seen and experienced. Luke writes in his Gospel, “So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.” (Luke 9:6)

What started at that lakeshore so long ago is the same calling that has been passed along to each of us today. We are a people of faith who have experienced love and grace, and now we have the privilege to go and offer the same love that was given to us. Following Jesus means more than just acknowledging Him as Savior. We must leave our past behind and commit our future to Him.

As I write this devotional, I cannot help but reflect on the love and grace that I have experienced in God’s church, as a parishioner, as a youth worker and as a pastor. I am also reminded that this love was not a gift for me to keep to myself. I now have the joy of walking with my Lord and sharing God’s love and hope with all that I meet. My hope is that you will experience that same calling in your life—the call to embrace God’s love and grace in your own life, and the eagerness to share it with others.

Prayer: Gracious Lord, you have loved us, and offered us new life through your grace. We give you our thanks and praise for the love you have shared with us. Help us as we go through our day, to show the world your love in all that we say and do. In Christ we pray, Amen.