

A SERIES OF DEVOTIONS BASED UPON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

THEY LEFT EVERYTHING AND FOLLOWED JESUS

Luke 5:10-11 “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.” (See Luke 5:4-11 for complete story)

Peter, James and John were brothers and commercial fishermen. Even professional fishermen are not always successful in bringing in a daily catch. Luke here records that Jesus was aware these three brothers had had a bad night. Jesus, after using their boat for His pulpit, encouraged them to go back out to fish again. Simon responded, ““Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.”” These words were followed with words of faith, ‘But because you say so, I will let down the nets.’” (Luke 5:5)

Jesus then performed one of His miracles. He filled the brother’s net with fish. In fact, there were so many fish the nets could barely contain them all. They had to get their partners to come with another boat. There were sufficient fish that both boats were filled and they were in danger of sinking from the weight.

Jesus then performed a greater miracle, “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)

Rev. Shiu Ming Lau, an LCMS pastor, said to me on a number of occasions that pastors are fishermen. He said, a pastor needs to fish for souls wherever there are people. He further said that all a pastor needed as a fisherman of souls was the Gospel. As he would leave church and I would ask Him where he was going, he would say, “I’m going fishing.”

Jesus has called you to also go fishing. As Jesus called illiterate fishermen to “go out into the world fishing for souls” or Rev. Shiu Ming Lau from Hong Kong, He has called you to do the same. You don’t need a lot of training. A hymn writer wrote, “If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.” (LSB 826, v.2)

Prayer: Dear Jesus, as you called Peter, James and John to fish for souls so show me where the fish are and equip me to “catch” them for Your sake. In Your holy name. Amen.

Hark, the voice of Jesus crying, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting— Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?

If you cannot speak like angels, If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked With the judgment’s dread alarms,
You can lead the little children To the Savior’s waiting arms.

If you cannot be a watchman, Standing high on Zion’s wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven, Off’ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God commands;
With your prayers and with your bounties You can do what God commands;
You can be like faithful Aaron, Holding up the prophet’s hands.

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,”
While the multitudes are dying And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”
(LSB 826)