

FISHING WITH JESUS

(Luke 5: 1-11)

- Intro: In the movie Joshua.
- Which we showed on a First Friday.
 - #3-4 months ago.
 - Father Pat.
 - #Catholic Priest.
 - *In the town of Auburn.
 - #Avid fisherman.
 - *Even showing up for worship on a Sunday morning.
 - +Wearing his waders.
 - =Underneath his vestments.
 - #Bought himself a fishing gizmo.
 - *Sonar Fisherman.
 - +To help him catch the big ones.
 - First day that Father Pat used the Sonar Fisherman.
 - #He threw the speaker component out into the river.
 - *Electronic cord connecting it to the power supply.
 - +Sitting on the bank of the river.
 - #Joshua.
 - *Who is a modern-day embodiment of Jesus.
 - *Asked Father Pat what he was doing.
 - #Father Pat proudly explained his recent purchase.
 - *Sonar Fisherman.
 - +\$49.99.
 - +Not sold in stores.
 - #Joshua.
 - *Said:
 - + "There must be a reason for that."
 - *Took a knife out of Father Pat's tackle box.
 - +Cut the electronic cord.
 - #Father Pat said:
 - * "What am I supposed to do now?"
 - * "Just fish?"
 - #Joshua chided him and said:
 - * "Oh, ye, of little fish."
- You never know what might happen.
- When you go fishing with Jesus.

I. Our Gospel Lesson For Today Is A Fish Story.

A. Simon Peter And His Partners Had Been Fishing All Night.

1. Night was the best time for fishing.
 - a. On the Lake of Gennesaret.
 - b. Sea of Galilee.
2. They hadn't caught a thing.
 - a. They were washing their nets.
 - b. That's what fishermen did after a night on the lake.
 - Washed their nets.
 - Mended their nets.
 - #Getting ready for:
 - *Another try.
 - *Another night.

B. Jesus Appeared On The Scene.

1. Crowd pressed around Jesus.
 - a. Wanting to hear the Word of God.
 - b. Jesus commandeered one of the fishing boats.
 - One belonging to Simon Peter.
 - Asked him to put out a little ways from the shore.
 - c. Jesus taught from the boat.
 - What he said.
 - #Not recorded.
 - This is not a preaching story.
 - #This is a fish story.
2. Jesus wanted to go fishing.
 - a. Didn't he know that this was not the best time for fishing?
 - b. Didn't he know that the professional fishermen had just come back empty handed?
 - Simon Peter.
 - #One of the pros.
 - #Told him so.
 - What did an amateur like Jesus know about fishing?
3. Jesus took command and gave the orders.
 - a. "Put out into the deep."
 - b. "Let down the nets."
4. Simon Peter.
 - a. After initially objecting to what he probably considered to be:
 - Wild goose chase.
 - Wild fish chase.

- b. Finally said:
 - “Master.”
 - #“Eye eye, sir.”
 - “At your word.”
 - “I will let down the nets.”
- 5. What happened next is a fish story beyond compare.
 - a. So many fish.
 - Fishing nets were breaking.
 - b. So many fish.
 - Two fishing boats were about to sink.
 - c. That’s what happens.
 - When you go fishing with Jesus.
- 6. But there was more.
 - a. Peter.
 - Fell at Jesus’ knees.
 - #Posture of worship.
 - Confessed his sin.
 - #“Depart from me, Lord.”
 - #“I am a sinful man.”
 - b. Jesus said:
 - “Don’t be afraid.”
 - “I’ve got another fishing trip planned for you.”
 - “I want to put you to work catching people.”
 - c. Those fishermen.
 - Peter.
 - James.
 - John.
 - #Left everything.
 - *Their nets.
 - *Their boats.
 - *Their livelihoods.
 - #Followed Jesus.
 - d. That’s what happens.
 - When you go fishing with Jesus.

II. What Happens When We Go Fishing With Jesus?

A. Jesus Gets Into Our Boats.

1. Peter, James, and John already had fishing boats.
 - a. They were professional fishermen.
 - They had their:
 - #Experience.
 - #Equipment.
 - b. But do you know?
 - There is not one single story in any of the Gospels.
 - Where those professional fishermen.
 - #Catch even one, single, solitary fish.
 - *Without Jesus.
 - But when Jesus is present.
 - #They catch so many fish.
 - *Nets are about to break.
 - *Boats are about to sink.
2. Each of us has our own boat.
 - a. Our own skills.
 - b. Our own talents.
 - c. Our own interests.
 - d. Our own vocations.
 - Some of you are students.
 - #Still learning how to sail.
 - Some of you may be in second or third careers.
 - #Moving from one lake to another.
 - Some of you may be retired.
 - #Going fishing.
 - *Because you want to.
 - *Not because you have to.
3. But no matter what boat we're in.
 - a. If Jesus isn't in the boat with us.
 - We're likely to come home empty handed.
 - #Not succeeding.
 - *In what we set out to do.
 - #Not finding:
 - *Meaning.
 - *Satisfaction.
 - + In what we do accomplish.
 - b. But when Jesus is in the boat with us.
 - Who can say what blessings are in store for us?
 - We are not people of little fish.

4. At Jesus' birth.
 - a. One of the names Jesus is given.
 - Immanuel.
 - #"God with us."
 - b. In the person of Jesus, God is with us.
 - Not just in the world.
 - But in our worlds.
 - In our boats.
 - #Washing us.
 - *In the waters of Holy Baptism.
 - #Mending us.
 - *When we are broken and torn by sin.
 - #Feeding us.
 - *Like we are at all-you-can-eat buffet.
 5. Let Jesus into the boat.
- B. Fishing With Jesus Is Risky Business, But Jesus Is Captain Of The Ship.
1. Jesus told Peter to put out into the deep water.
 - a. Deep water.
 - Further from shore.
 - Further from safety.
 - #If there's a storm.
 - #If there's a problem with the boat.
 - b. But Jesus doesn't ask Peter to go anywhere.
 - Jesus doesn't go himself.
 - #Jesus is the captain of the ship.
 2. This month we're beginning our 5x5x5 small groups.
 - a. Reading Scripture.
 - That might seem like deep water to some.
 - b. Praying.
 - With and for each other.
 - For the ministry of this congregation.
 - For the mission of the wider church.
 - #That might seem like deep water to some.
 - *Especially if you're asked to pray out loud.
 - c. But remember who is captain of the ship.
 3. Some of you were elected to serve:
 - a. As officers of this congregation.
 - b. As members of the Church Council.
 - We're going to install those people this morning.
 - That might seem like deep water to some.
 - c. But remember who is captain of the ship.

4. Last week we adopted a budget.
 - a. With a projected \$14,000 deficit.
 - That might seem like deep water to some.
 - b. I take heart from the fact.
 - Pledges are up \$33,000 over a year ago.
 - Giving is up over the pledges.
 - c. I trust:
 - We can grow in our giving.
 - We can eliminate that deficit.
 - d. But I also remember who is captain of the ship.
5. Some of you are facing health issues.
 - a. You haven't had to face before.
 - b. You may feel like you're in deep water.
 - c. But remember who is captain of the ship.
 - That captain has known the deep water.
 - #Golgotha.
 - #Grave.
 - That captain is also the Lord.
 - #Resurrection.
 - #New life.
 - d. Even if the waters take us down.
 - Our captain has already given us an eternal life preserver.
6. Remember who is captain of the ship.

C. It's Not About Us.

1. It's about the fish.
 - a. This is a fish story.
 - Not simply those creatures with:
 - #Scales.
 - #Gills.
 - *Swamp the boats of:
 - +Peter.
 - +James.
 - +John.
 - But about the people.
 - #Peter, James, and John are to help to catch.
 - b. Greek word (zograo).
 - Literally means:
 - #To catch alive.
 - We might say it another way.
 - #To bring life to the catch.

2. Living things are going to grow.
 - a. That's their nature.
 - b. If you have:
 - Children.
 - Grandchildren.
 - Great grandchildren.
 - #You don't make them grow.
 - *It's their nature.
 - #Oh, you:
 - *Provide the groceries.
 - *Keep buying bigger shoes.
 - #But God makes them grow.
 - c. If a church is alive, it is going to grow.
 - That is its nature.
 - God makes it grow.
 - #There are different ways of measuring that growth.
 - *We can grow in our own spiritual walk.
 - +That's one of the main purposes of 5x5x5.
 - *We can grow in our giving.
 - +Moving towards tithing.
 - =And beyond.
 - *We can grow in our numbers.
 - +When we welcome new members.
 - #We all have a role to play in this.
 - *Do you know the #1 reason?
 - +People visit a church for the first time.
 - =Because someone invited them.
 - That's your job.
 - #As well as mine.
 - *Do you know the #1 reason?
 - +People visit a church for the second time.
 - =Quality of the preaching.
 - *Do you know the #2 reason?
 - +People visit a church for the second time.
 - =Warmth and friendliness of the people.
 - #We all have a contribution to make.
 - *Fish don't jump into the boat by themselves.
 - +Someone has to drop the net.
 - *It's not about us.
 - *It's about the fish.
 - *It's about bringing life to the catch.

3. It's about bringing life to those who may still be swimming in the sea.
 - a. Our Helping Hands food pantry.
 - To provide basic necessities to hungry people.
 - b. Our collection of underwear and toiletries.
 - To help ex-offenders make a fresh start in society.
 - c. All part of our mission:
 - Glowing and Growing in the Light of the Lord.
4. It's not about us.
 - a. It's about the fish.
 - b. It's about bringing life to the catch.

Concl: Going fishing with Jesus.
-Remember:
#Let Jesus into your boat.
#Jesus is captain.
#It's about bringing life to the catch.

Our Lord brings life to us.
-Here at this altar.
#In bread and wine.
*Fish food.
+For the fish.
+For the fishermen.
+For the fisherwomen.