



# LIVING THE GOSPEL

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
February 9<sup>th</sup> 2025**

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**Theme: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."**

## **Gathering Prayer**

**All:** Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Exploring the Word**

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> While the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. <sup>2</sup> And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup> And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, <sup>7</sup> they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup> For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; <sup>10</sup> and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

## **Gospel Focus**

Peter's journey with Christ can give us whiplash—he will challenge Jesus, misunderstand him, follow him into deep waters, doubt him, deny him, and finally land as the shepherd of Christ's flock, ready to endure persecution and death as a result of his preaching. Here, we see him at the moment that started it all. Peter is reckless: one miracle and he is ready to leave everything—his boats and nets and even the miraculous catch of fish Jesus has just provided. He is a man seized by love, love that he will not live out perfectly but that will

see him through a lifetime with Jesus. Although his journey with Christ will have its difficulties, this first encounter changes everything.

## **Gospel Reflection**

It can happen anywhere, anytime, to anyone. For Isaiah, it was during a religious service in the temple, wrapped in incense and awe-inspiring ritual. For certain Galilean fishermen, it was when they were going about their normal, everyday lives, casting and catching, cleaning and communing. With Paul, it was when he was in an angry turmoil, dead set against the new movement of Jesus followers, determined to keep them from ruining the tradition. The call to mission accompanied by God's transforming grace can strike at any moment.

What always happens when one experiences a call from God is that the immensity of the divine holiness is overpowering. In the face of God's unparalleled goodness, graciousness, and mercy, our own inadequacies and sinfulness loom all the larger. "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips," exclaimed Isaiah. "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man," implores Peter. "I am...to be called an apostle," insist Paul. God, however, is never deterred by such protestations. The mission is never dependent upon the worthiness of the minister but upon God's grace. If people kept their focus on their own inabilities and shortcomings, the work of God would never be accomplished. When Peter lets go of his certainty that nothing can be caught and relinquishes his fear of what Jesus is asking of him, then he can let himself be seized by grace to bring all his skills to be employed in Jesus' mission.

When Paul accepts that it is by the grace of God that he is what he is and surrenders all that he is to God's power, then he can say that God's "grace to me has not been ineffective." The effectiveness of this amazing grace is evident not only on the personal transformation each one experiences but also in the sharing of that transformative power with all who are open to hear.

When one is seized by grace, the gifts and skills one already has are often put to a different use under Christ's direction. One can imagine Peter's reluctance to follow Jesus' suggestion out into deep water, when he and his companion had been hard at it all night without any reward. Why should professionals like them listen to Jesus? It is when they can take the sage advice of trying things a different way under Jesus' direction that the grace comes.

While the story of the call of the women disciples, Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and their companions (Luke 8:1-3) is not persevered in the New Testament, one can speculate about the ways in which they had to reorient their lives, as they channeled their money and other resources to the Jesus movement. What obstacles would they have had to overcome, such as disapproval by spouses, family, and friends, to dedicate their resources to the Christian mission? These obstacles were no match for the power of grace within them.

## **Old/New Testament and CCC links**

### **First Reading — Isaiah 6:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am

lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup> Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." <sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

### **Responsorial Reading — Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8**

***R: "In the sight of the angels I will sing your praises, Lord."***

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth; in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise; I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name. **(R)**

Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. **(R)**

All the kings of the earth shall give thanks to you, O Lord, when they hear the words of your mouth; and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord: "Great is the glory of the Lord." **(R)**

Your right hand saves me. The Lord will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O Lord, endures forever; forsake not the work of your hands. **(R)**

### **Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> Now I would remind you, brethren, in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup> by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup> and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup> Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup> Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup> Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup> For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup> But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. <sup>11</sup> Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### **Catechism of The Catholic Church**

**208.** Faced with God's fascinating and mysterious presence, man discovers his own insignificance. Before the burning bush, Moses takes off his sandals and veils his face in the presence of God's holiness. (Cf. Ex 3:5-6) Before the glory of the thrice-holy God, Isaiah cries out: "Woe is me! I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips." (Is 6:5) Before the divine signs wrought by Jesus, Peter exclaims: "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." (Lk 5:8) But because God is holy, he can forgive the man who realizes that he is a sinner before him: "I will not execute my fierce anger. . . for I am God and

not man, the Holy One in your midst."(Hos 11:9) The apostle John says likewise: "We shall. . . reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything."(I Jn 3:19-20)

### **Sharing and Discussion**

- 1.** Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." <sup>11</sup> And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him. How does this passage connect to the theme of trust in God's plan?
- 2.** What can we learn from the fact that Jesus calls fishermen—ordinary, working-class individuals—for such an extraordinary mission?
- 3.** Have you ever faced a situation where God asked you to do something that didn't make sense at the time? How did you respond? What was the outcome?

### **Closing Prayer**

**All:** O God, you alone are holy and you alone are Lord. Hear our prayers this day and increase our faith in you, whom we should love above all things. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

#### **Living The Gospel bible study/sharing via Zoom**

**Every Wednesday**

**Time: 8 – 9.30 pm**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2760073734?pwd=cDRZR2JQMGRobVkwkTY3ZVF5L1BwZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 276 007 3734**

**Passcode: 1WordOfGod**

**All are welcome!**

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#### **References:**

(1) Gospel Notes are taken from The Navarre Bible

(2) Gospel Reflection and Living Liturgy are taken from "Living Liturgy for Sundays and Solemnities" by Order of St Benedict. Published by Liturgical Ministry, The Liturgical Press, Collegeville, Minnesota  
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(3) CCC references are taken from Catechism of The Catholic Church