

FEBRUARY 7, 2016

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 6:1-2A, 3-8

PSALM 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11 OR 15:3-8, 1

LUKE 5:1-11

REFLECTION

Today's Gospel is the beginning of the Apostles' ministry with Jesus. It was on the fishing boats where they worked each day that they were called. Jesus asked them to lower their nets even though they had been fishing all night and had not caught anything. When they chose to listen to him anyway and lowered their nets, they caught so many fish that the nets started tearing. With Christ they were able to do more than they could do on their own. When the boat was in danger of sinking because of the great catch, Simon was scared. Jesus told him not to be afraid. They made it to shore safely and because of this miracle they left all they had and followed Jesus to be catchers of men. Jesus calls each of us too. He meets us where we are in our everyday lives just as he did the apostles. With Christ we can do more than we can ever imagine. Our efforts on our own come up short, but when we let Jesus take the lead we do so much better. In the Old Testament reading, Isaiah recognized his sin and how he fell short without the Lord. He too was called, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8). He was cleansed of his sin and then was able to say "yes" to that question: "'Here I am,' I said; 'send me!'" (Isaiah 6:8). We may not be asked to catch people, but we are asked to be disciples just as the apostles were, and just as Isaiah was sent, we too are sent. What is our answer? Can we let go of our sin as the Apostles let go of everything? Can we follow Jesus by living lives guided by the Gospels? Jesus is waiting for our answer today. "Here I am; send me!"



Find ways you can volunteer in your community..
www.ehow.com/list_6026241_volunteer-opportunities-teens.html

ACTION

We answer the above question by how we live our lives. The Apostles didn't stay where they were. They went forth and reached out to others. Find a way to be of service this week to those outside of your immediate family. Here are a few ideas: help an elderly neighbor, assist at a soup kitchen, study with a friend, volunteer at church or school, or visit a nursing home.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What do you need to leave behind to follow Jesus?
- How might God be calling you to live out your baptismal call in your life right now?
- What fears can you hand over to Jesus so you can do just that?