

In this Gospel reading, we see one of the miracles that Jesus did in front of his followers. Most of the time, he performed them to the crowd who gathered around him but this one is performed in front of the disciples that he promised to make them fishers of men.

Here in this Luke's account, Peter was asked by Jesus to go out into deep water and catch some fish. Well, Peter didn't think much of that because they had been fishing all night and caught nothing. "But he did what Jesus said and caught so many fish that the nets could not contain them. Peter and his companions were overwhelmed at the catch. It was more than they could handle physically and psychologically. Seeing what he could not understand, Peter reacted with fear. He fell before Jesus as he would before a ruler and respectfully asked him to let him be.

That day on the boat was decisive. Peter and company had heard and seen Jesus. They had broken bread with him and seen his healing power. But the experience on the boat threw it all into a new perspective.

Here at the seashore he was given a mission to be a "fisher of men." Later on, when he was head of the Church, Peter would remember that noontime catch of fish and that, whatever his limitations, his power comes from the fact that he was obedient to Jesus Christ. He knew that whatever our limitations, if we are faithful, Christ will use us to further His Kingdom.

Luke tells us this story about Peter and his buddies so that we can find ourselves in it. As we read the Gospel, we will notice that the extraordinary catch was just that. Their days were not filled with any success. But that one experience had caught them up in Jesus' net. They saw enough to know that they could not imagine what was possible and that was the good news Jesus preached.

Today we can ask ourselves whether or not we are willing to allow Jesus to commandeer our boat. Here Peter would advise us to do so. If we allow Jesus into our work, we will become aware of our inadequacy and sinfulness. And the midst of that, we may be captivated and discover how our small faith and lack of hope can grow into extraordinary and miraculously realistic expectations.