

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

RESISTANCE TO TRANSFORMATION

By Lucy Dominguez

Today's Gospel

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.

He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.

Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.

Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,

"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Simon said in reply,

"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing.

They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them.

*They came and filled both boats
so that the boats were in danger of sinking.
When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
"Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."
For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him
and all those with him,
and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
who were partners of Simon.
Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching men."
When they brought their boats to the shore,
they left everything and followed him.*

LUKE 5:1-11

Reflection

This gospel passage depicts a profound moment of divine encounter and transformation. Jesus chooses Simon Peter's boat to teach from, showing His willingness to enter into the ordinary aspects of our lives. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus instructs Simon to lower the nets again. Despite his doubts, Simon trusts, resulting in a miraculous and overwhelming haul. This act highlights the abundance of God's grace when we trust Him. Simon's reaction of humility and awe, acknowledging his unworthiness, leads to Jesus giving him a new purpose: to become a fisher of men. This transformative encounter prompts Simon and his companions to leave everything behind and follow Jesus.

Growing up, I always said I would never have children. It wasn't because I didn't like children; I didn't feel called to be a mother. When I found out I was pregnant, all my fears came to the surface. I was afraid of giving up the life I had, fearful of passing on my traumas, terrified of losing my baby. I kicked and screamed through the entire pregnancy, resisting every step of the way. But my life changed entirely once my son was born, and I embraced motherhood. I have the opportunity to give myself entirely and unconditionally every day. Being a mother has helped heal parts of my life I didn't know needed healing. It motivates me to be my best self every day. It was the call I never intended to respond to ... but ultimately needed to.

Just as Simon initially resisted Jesus' call to lower the nets into the deep water, I resisted the call to motherhood. After a long night of fruitless labor, Simon had doubts and fears, and I, too, was overwhelmed by fear and uncertainty. However, when Simon trusted and followed Jesus' command, he landed a

miraculous catch that exceeded his expectations. Similarly, when I embraced the unexpected call to motherhood, I found it transformative and healing in ways I never anticipated. We are reminded that sometimes, the calls we resist the hardest are the ones that lead to the deepest fulfillment and growth. Jesus often calls us amid our daily routines and struggles. He calls us to look beyond our immediate circumstances and embrace a greater mission. Following Him sometimes requires leaving behind our comfort zones and simply trusting in His plan for our lives.



Fishing Nets on a Wooden Boat Moored on the Shore
Photo by Stuffedbox NG

For Pondering

- How can you be more open to recognizing and responding to God's presence in ordinary moments?
 - Consider a call or invitation you have resisted due to fear or uncertainty. What steps can you take to overcome these fears and embrace this call, trusting in the abundance of God's grace and its transformative potential?
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For Prayer

*God of light,
open me to see the many ways that you are present in my life.
Light my way. Guide me.
Gift me with an inner eye of faith
so that all of life takes on the quality of your loving presence.
May the power of your Spirit fill me with a desire to follow you.*

ADAPTED FROM JOYCE RUPP, *OUT OF THE ORDINARY*

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