

Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

February 2022

“And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.”

Luke 5:1-11

One of the major themes of Epiphany is Evangelism. That God reveals himself to the world in our age through the church. Jesus tells the disciples he will make them “fishers of people” if they follow him. Throughout the gospels he teaches them how to fish for people. Jesus met people where they were and met their physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. At the end of the Gospel of John the disciples are once again fishing unsuccessfully. Jesus tells them to cast their net on the other side, and they fill their nets instantly. This is not only about showing them who He is but also reminding them what he has called them to do. God has shown us how to evangelize through the life of Jesus. However, we can easily lose focus, put the emphasis on numbers. If we ever get discouraged about the size of the church the answer is not to find something new to draw people in. The answer is to return to the basics that Jesus laid out through his life. To focus on His Word and Trust that God will provide. For God has promised that he will give the increase and give us the harvest.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, put on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

Jesus does not say that we must try to be the light of the world, he says that we are. He even goes on to say that our light cannot be hidden. As a Christian, we are joined with Jesus Christ. Jesus not only has taught us how to fish for people but he also directs us where to fish and he fills our nets. It is important to realize that God is the one that saves people. It is not up to the Christian, the Christian is merely a vessel that sows seeds. The cool thing is that when we do this, we are serving Jesus too. Jesus has said that whatever we do for our neighbor we do for him. When we serve our neighbor, we are directly serving Jesus Christ. That’s what it is to be a fisher of men.

God's Peace,

Pastor Nick Kandoll

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