**Saturday**

**The Lord Jesus calls his Disciples**

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**Reflecting on:**

**“Fishers of Men”**

**Readings:**

Luke 5: 1-11

**Other Readings:**

Isaiah 6: 1-8; Psalm 138: 1-5, 7-8; 1Corinthians 15: 1-11

**1. Lectio:** This is such a well known story that we can read it and yet not get to the heart of this miraculous event. Luke invites us to become witnesses to the miracle and of the call of the first three disciples into service.

Crowds were already following Jesus to listen to him teaching on the word of God. What did they see in Jesus – was it something more than a simple preacher? Or did they recognise God’s representative?

When Simon witnesses the miraculous catch of fish he sees Jesus in a new light. He acknowledges Jesus as ‘Lord’ (Verse 8) and feels the burden of his sinfulness before Jesus. He immediately falls to his knees and asks Jesus to leave him. The prophet Isaiah reacted in a similar way when he saw a vision of God (see Isaiah 6).

God seems to give both men impossible missions. Jesus tells Simon not to be afraid and then tells him he has a new job – catching people, not fish! We are not given any more details at this stage but Luke hints it is Jesus who will turn these humble fishermen into ‘catchers of people’.

Simon and the other new disciples are captivated by Jesus and leave with him. Implicit in what Jesus has said is the need for the disciples to be with Jesus all the time to fulfil their vocation. Nets, boats, livelihood, home and families are all left behind as the disciples set off with Jesus for a totally new life.

**2. Meditatio:**

**\*** What does Simon’s initial reaction to this miracle reveal about who he thought Jesus was?

**\*** Have you ever experienced the burden of your sinfulness? How do you think God wants you to respond to him at this time? What can we learn from Simon’s response?

**\*** To become a ‘catcher of people’ Simon, James and John had to spend time with Jesus and follow him. What does this mean for you today? Are you called to be ‘a catcher of people’? If so how can you draw practical lessons from Jesus in the time you spend with him?

**3. Oratio:**

Give thanks that we can know forgiveness of our sins because Jesus’ death and resurrection. 1 John 1:9 gives us the assurance that ‘if we confess our sins to God... he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrong-doing.’

Ask God to help you forget your own frailties and to give you the faith and courage to follow Jesus and tell others about him.

**4. Contemplatio:**

Contemplate God’s pure holiness. Join the Seraphim in declaring God’s holiness and glory.

* **Prayer of the Day**

Jesus, my Lord,

I see your eyes looking at me

loving and imploring

as if you are calling me

to follow you.

I look at your eyes

and feel the radiance of your love,

experience the light of your compassion.

I wish to respond to your call

with a desire to be your disciple.

Here I am,

What do you want from me?

I am ready to do your Will. Amen.

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**Reflecting on:**

**“Caring For The Poor”**

**Readings:**

Luke 16: 19-21

**Other Readings:**

Amos 6: 1, 4-7; Psalm 146: 6-10; 1 Timothy 6: 11-16

**1. Lectio:** Wealth appears to have made this rich man blind. He had seen Lazarus in a pitiful state outside his luxurious home. He even Knew Lazarus’s name (verse 24). But he did absolutely nothing to help him.

All Jews would know that Moses and the prophets taught that the rich had a social responsibility to care for the poor. In his selfishness this rich man disobeyed God’s law. It is ironic that later, never having lifted a finger to help Lazarus, he asks Abraham to tell Lazarus to help him!

In Hades, family bonds draw out some compassion from the rich man. He thinks of his brothers and asks Abraham to send Lazarus with a warning. He doesn’t want them to end up with the same punishment as him. Abraham responds that they have Moses and the prophets to warn them. This isn’t good enough for the rich man. He believes something more dramatic is needed – only someone rising from the dead will convince his family. Abraham gives a very telling reply, ‘they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from the death’ (verse 31).

Not long after these words were spoken Jesus himself died and rose from the dead. Abraham’s insight proved accurate both then and now. Even a great miracle will not convince those who ignore the warnings of the Bible. Sadly, many today still refuse to believe in God’s Son Jesus and to serve him as their loving Master.

**2. Meditatio:**

**\*** What is God revealing to you from this passage? Are you obeying God’s teaching in this area of your life?

**\*** Consider whether you are taking seriously the call to help others in need. This may mean more than just giving money; spending time with someone may be just as precious.

**\*** Compare this reading with the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6: 17-19.

**3. Oratio:**

How is God’s concern for the poor and disadvantaged revealed in Psalm 146? Pray about your own response to this concern and pray for all those working to bring relief to those in need.

**4. Contemplatio:**

Spend some time considering the majesty of God described in 1 Timothy 6: 15-16.

* **Prayer of the Day**

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