



“Tracks for the Lectio Divina for Young Adults”

Lectioautas Project

CELAM/CEBIPAL-SEJ – UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES

Rev. Gabriel Mestre

Translation by Deacon Tony Maceo

**LECTIO DIVINA**  
**Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. 2009**  
**5<sup>th</sup>. Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C**  
*“Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk”*  
*Psalm 119:105*

**BIBLICAL TEXT: Luke 5, 1-11**

**Jesus Chooses His First Disciples**

(Matthew 4.18-22; Mark 1.16-20)

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was standing on the shore of Lake Gennesaret, teaching the people as they crowded around him to hear God's message. <sup>2</sup>Near the shore he saw two boats left there by some fishermen who had gone to wash their nets. <sup>3</sup>Jesus got into the boat that belonged to Simon and asked him to row it out a little way from the shore. Then Jesus sat down <sup>[b]</sup> in the boat to teach the crowd. <sup>4</sup>When Jesus had finished speaking, he told Simon, "Row the boat out into the deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish."

<sup>5</sup>"Master," Simon answered, "we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down." <sup>6</sup>They did it and caught so many fish that their nets began ripping apart. <sup>7</sup>Then they signaled for their partners in the other boat to come and help them. The men came, and together they filled the two boats so full that they both began to sink.

<sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter saw this happen, he knelt down in front of Jesus and said, "Lord, don't come near me! I am a sinner." <sup>9</sup>Peter and everyone with him were completely



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surprised at all the fish they had caught. <sup>10</sup>His partners James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were surprised too.

Jesus told Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you will bring in people instead of fish." <sup>11</sup>The men pulled their boats up on the shore. Then they left everything and went with Jesus.

*CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION.*

## 1 – READING.

*What does the text say? What is happening in it?*

**Dear brothers and sisters:**

As He begins His ministry, including some miraculous healings, Chapter 5 starts with the narrative of a miraculous “catch” in which He will call to follow to His first four disciples.

Life around the eastern part of Galilee was closely associated with the lake of the same name (also known as Tiberias and/or Genesareth.) There, Jesus taught the people, and when many began to gather around, the Lord decides to use one of the fishing boats that were by the shore side of the lake. From there, He proclaims the Kingdom and when He finishes, He tells Peter, who was the owner of the boat, to navigate into the lake to fish. Peter was surprised by the request and replies that they had already spent the night trying to catch fish but with no results. Also, if at night they were unsuccessful, much less they will catch anything in the morning or at midday. However, Peter accedes and agrees to throw in the nets...literally he says: *"we have worked hard all night long and have not caught a thing. But if you tell me to, I will let the nets down."*

His obedience to Jesus brings incredible results. They caught so much fish that the nets were bursting and almost broke. Even their boats were so loaded that it appeared they were going to sink. Peter is amazed and kneels before Jesus and publicly acknowledges his own sins.

Peter was not the only one surprised, but James and John who were there, were also amazed (possibly Andrew was also in the boat with them.)



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The Lord will then tell Peter not to be afraid because He will make him “fisher of men”. They all went back to the shore and leaving everything behind, follow the Lord.

To keep in mind: In the gospels two miraculous catches of fish are told. This one and the one narrated in John 21:1-6. Both are very similar. Scholars argue whether these are two separate incidents or refer to the same tradition but placed in two different moments in the life of the Lord. Beyond any “technical” argument it is worth it to read both so that the Word speaks to us in full context.

Other biblical references to explore: Mt 4: 18-22; Mk 1: 16-20; Jn 21: 1-6.

To continue in depth these topics refer to the Study Bible “Contemporary English Version” and look in the maps to locate the Lake of Galilee in the northern part of Israel.

#### QUESTIONS ABOUT THE WORD

- As the text begins, where is Jesus and what are the people doing?
- What does the Lord see and what does He do?
- Where does He begin teaching?
- What does He tell Peter upon finishing the teachings to the people?
- What is Peter’s reply? What happens when they obey the Lord?
- What do the fishermen do when the nets begin to burst open? What happened to the boats loaded with so many fish?
- How does Peter react to this?
- What does the Lord tell Peter?
- How does the text finish?



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## 2 – MEDITATION.

*What does the text tell me?*

### Questions to meditate

- Do I leave everything to go and listen to the Word of the Lord and learn from it?
- How do I interpret the phrase: *"Row the boat out into the deep water and let your nets down to catch some fish."*?
- What do I have in “the sea” of my life today? How deep should I “sail”?
- Can I follow Jesus’ Word even though at times does not agree with my human thinking?
- Where do I see the abundant “fishing” in today’s world?
- Do I have Peter’s humility to acknowledge myself as a sinner?
- What motivation do I find in the phrase: *Don't be afraid!*
- Do I follow Jesus and try to be a “fisher of men?”

## 3 – PRAYER.

*What do I (we) tell Him?*

This Sunday we will use a text from the Apostolic Letter from John Paul II dated January 6<sup>th</sup>. 2001:

*1. At the beginning of the new millennium, and at the close of the Great Jubilee during which we celebrated the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of Jesus and a new stage of the Church's journey begins, our hearts ring out with the words of Jesus when one day, after speaking to the crowds from Simon's boat, he invited the Apostle to "put out into the deep" for a catch: "Duc in altum" (Lk 5:4). Peter and his first companions trusted Christ's words, and cast the nets. "When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish" (Lk 5:6).*

*Duc in altum! These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm and to look forward to the future with confidence: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Heb 13:8).*

This is the beginning of the text of the Apostolic Letter on the occasion of the Third Millennium and note that he uses today’s text as part of the letter.



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## 4 – COMTEMPLATION.

*How do I (we) bring the message inside of me (us)?*

Today, let us take the term sail or navigate deep into the waters as an invitation of the Lord for our lives.

- Lord Jesus, you invite me to sail into the goodness of my life...
- Lord Jesus, you invite me despite my errors and sinful nature...
- Lord Jesus, you invite me into the darkness that sometimes I find in my heart...
- Lord Jesus, you invite me...

## 5 – ACTION.

*What is my (our) commitment?*

### PERSONAL:

Review my vocational works and discern if I have already found a specific place to serve, and if not, ask myself what is the Lord is asking from me today...

### COMMUNITY:

Work as a group to develop a plan to teach the ways of the Lord to those around us, especially the youth so that they may grow making the world a more peaceful and Christian place...