

Peter is not the only worker who has "worked hard all night." Many of us can identify with an "all-night-labor"; something we have worked hard at all day and that still keeps us up at night. We can hear in Peter's our own voice of fatigue, frustration and failure. There are times in our lives when we can say what Peter expresses in today's gospel, "we have caught nothing...."

We have: struggled

- to keep a relationship together, only to have it crumble;
- tried to support our families during times of cutbacks and financial hardship and a two year pandemic;
- taught our children the faith, only to have them give it up when they left the house;
- come towards the end of our hard-working lives to find ourselves limited by physical or financial constraints.

Like Peter and his partners, we have a lot on our plates and have much to preoccupy us.

Peter hasn't had the time or leisure to listen to Jesus preach on some hillside or local synagogue, as we have been able to do over the last few weeks. Peter has important things to tend to on this day; he's got a family to feed and a business to maintain.

Since Peter couldn't go to Jesus, Jesus goes to him. He chooses Peter's boat as his "pulpit." From there Jesus preaches to the crowds, whom Luke describes as pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God.... Jesus must have been saying something they found important for their lives.

Peter couldn't help hearing what Jesus was saying, after all, they were in the same boat. Jesus' words were so moving that Peter was willing to act against his experience as a fisherman, and to trust Jesus' word. When he tells Peter, "put out into the deep and lower your nets for a catch" ..., Peter does it.

Here is where we are at this point of the story:

- we have a working man whose life is frustrating and failing;
- into that life and world Jesus enters with a word that draws people to himself;
- Peter hears that word and responds to it and he discovers that if he listens and is obedient **his life bears fruit...the kind--a fisherman would recognize, a huge catch.**

Hopefully we can easily place ourselves in this story with Jesus in our midst. Jesus is addressing a person in the midst of a busy day and that person responding to him. Peter goes from indirection and failure to purpose and bounty. He realizes what has happened and decides to follow the one who can catch fish for him and more whose word bears life.

But Peter has initial hesitation. He feels unworthy. Jesus tell him to be not afraid. They may be unworthy, but if they trust, not in themselves but Jesus, they will be catching a bounty of people.

Peter sees the fish, but he sees more. Here is someone who can enter into his life and direct him to bounty, meaning, vision and hope. Here is someone who makes him aware how far he is from God and how unfulfilling life on his own can be.

So, he speaks his feelings of unworthiness, not out of an exaggerated sense of guilt, but from the experience we too would have in the presence of the Holy One. Relying then, not on themselves but upon the Word, they put their hesitations, their feelings of unworthiness and their fear, aside and follow Jesus.

Much like Isaiah and Paul who also experienced unworthiness in the presence of God. Isaiah had an experience of the holy God that frightened him and also filled him with awe. Isaiah, like Peter kneeling before Jesus, experiences his own unworthiness and God's compassion. Yes, he is a man of unclean lips. But for God that's not an obstacle. Isaiah's mission won't depend on his own worthiness, but on the word of the One who is calling and sending.

Paul said to be **unworthy to be called an apostle** and yet Jesus made him the great apostle.

All experience a call to grace and holiness, to trust and hope. All three Isaiah, Paul and Peter said yes, when the Lord called...Here I am send me!

Unworthy as we are Christ Jesus call you and me...a call that directs our life to bounty, meaning, vision and hope!