

Sermon on Fishing for the second time (Luke 5:1-11)

We read in today's Gospel reading that Jesus sits on Peter's boat and teaches the people from there. When Jesus finishes speaking, he says to Peter:

*“Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish”.*

Peter replies:

*“Master, we worked hard all last night and did not catch a thing. But if you say so, I will let the nets down again.”*

Jesus says to Peter: go to the sea one more time to catch fish.

Peter's answer is a short one, but it has many meanings and implications.

Peter is saying to Jesus:

**My Master**, I am a professional fisherman. I know when to fish. I know where to fish. I have done my best. The whole night I have worked hard. And I have caught no fish. It is unreasonable, irrational, and unwise to go to the sea for the second time.

All the signs are telling me that there is no fish to catch. But, because you are my master, I will go to fish one more time. I still have no reason to believe that I can catch fish, but you say I must go, so I go.

Peter calls Jesus ‘Master’. ‘In this passage the word ‘Master’ is a translation of the Greek word *epistates* that means chief or commander. Jesus’ disciples used to call him *episates* in recognition of his authority. This means that Jesus’ disciples have chosen Him as their commander and chief. Therefore, they are committed to follow him and listen to him, no matter what.

There is a conflict between Peter’s mind and his heart. His mind, his experiences, and his reasoning tell him that it is absurd to go to the sea to fish again. But, his heart tells him to listen to your commander and do what he says, in spite of his mind’s resistance and stubbornness.

And this is one of the **meanings of faith**: when mind finds all the doors closed, heart steps in to open one door. Then, we will be able to observe and experience a marvelous change, a new life, a transformation.

Mind is usually self-centered, reserved, and timid. Heart is usually selfless, open, and brave. Mind’s power usually overcomes heart’s strength. Mind usually needs a push, an incentive, a frustration, or a sign in order to give in and leave the stage for heart. Sometimes, mind needs an external sign to give space to heart.

Different people believe in different signs. Some Eastern Christians believe if they see a white dove flying in front of them, they must let their hearts decide and act. **Some native Canadians** believe that a red-tailed Hawk is a sign. **The People in my birthplace** believe that the song of a nightingale, and the presence of a brown eagle are signs. A group of people believe that the sudden appearance of a group of dolphins in the sea is a sign.

They are all the signs of Heaven that connect us to our true self, to our hearts.

**We believe that Jesus has promised us the coming of Holy Spirit.  
And Holy Spirit,  
uses different ways,  
takes different forms,  
and shows different signs to communicate with us.**

And this communication happens within our hearts.

There is another thing that Jesus has taught us.

**Conflict between heart and mind** is the first stage of our growth. But, in the ups and downs of our spiritual journeys, we learn that there is a time for mind to act and there is a time for heart to take charge. And wisdom is the fruit of cooperation between mind and heart.

There is a conflict between mind and heart, inside Peter, in the beginning of his spiritual journey.

But after a while we notice that Peter gets wiser and the conflict gives place to cooperation.

**Let us pray:** Almighty God, today, Brook Elizabeth, will be welcomed into your Kingdom; O Lord, show her the signs of your protection and love as she grows into faith in your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; in His name we pray. **Amen**