

Week Three: Casting Our Nets

Weekly Prayer:

O God of all the nations of the earth: Remember the multitudes who have been created in your image but have not known the redeeming work of our Savior Jesus Christ; and grant that, by the prayers and labors of your holy Church, they may be brought to know and worship you as you have been revealed in your Son; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Weekly Questions:

Power is the ability to effect change. It is morally neutral, but each use of power has moral implications. If we acknowledge that we, as followers of Jesus, have no power to help ourselves, but must place our whole trust in the power of God working through us, then how do we make choices with the power we have, invested in us by the World? As doctors, teachers, servers, welders, laborers, priests, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters...how do we choose to use our power when we cast our nets as fishers of people?

Daily Challenge

- Take 20 minutes a day of your day to sit quietly, allowing your mind, body and soul to relax while inviting Christ to come alongside you as you make your way through the coming day. Read the Daily Scripture and take at least 5 minutes with each day's question
- Review your personal prayer list. Add any names that have come up in the past week that come to mind. If you decide to remove any names (and that is ok!), then pause and commend them to God's care as you refocus your intercessions on others
- Include in your prayers special intention for those fishers of people in whose net you found yourself. Who are YOUR ancestors of faith?
- When you have the time, at the close of your day and as you are able, pray Compline

Daily Scripture:

- Sunday's Scripture:
 - I Corinthians 1: 18-25
 - Your Question: Where does your wisdom come from in your life? Does it rise from training? From education? How has God confounded that hard-won wisdom in your life?
- Monday's Scripture:
 - II Kings 5: 1-15b
 - Your Question: When has the simple task God has set before you felt just too....simple?
- Tuesday's Scripture:
 - Matthew 18: 21-35

- Your Question: Casting a net is no small feat. It takes skill, and a clear and undistracted mind. What burdens against others do you carry in your heart? How many times more do you need to forgive until that burden ceases to overshadow you?
- Wednesday's Scripture:
 - Matthew 5: 17-19
 - Your Question: For some, following the rules is a challenge. For others, it is a joy. How do you respond to rules, and what do you experience and feel when they are broken?
- Thursday's Scripture:
 - Mark 6: 30-46
 - Your Question: You can't catch fish without good bait. What do you have to offer to those over whom you are called to cast your nets? What is it about you that draws others to a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus?
- Friday's Scripture:
 - I Corinthians 9: 16-27
 - Your Question: Can you remember a time in your life when you became "all things to all people" by the grace of God? What did it feel like to have God use you to ensure others' experience of grace in Christ Jesus?
- Saturday's Scripture:
 - Mark 12: 28-34
 - Your Question: Jesus summarized the Law with two simple assertions....Love God with your whole being and love your neighbor as yourself. There is no question today. You have one purpose with two points of focus: Spend the day consciously loving God and your neighbor

The Weekly Gathering:

Collect for III Lent:

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Gospel:

John 2:13-22

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples

remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

- Open your gathering with the appropriate Daily Office for the hour of the day
- Hold silent prayer for 3-5 minutes
- One person reads the Collect for the Week, and then all pause to reflect on the prayer (2-3 minutes)
- Another person reads the lesson for the evening
- After a short period of quiet meditation (3-5 minutes), all recite the Lord's Prayer and then discuss:
 - Casting a net, as Jesus' disciples who were fisherfolk knew, takes skill developed over a lifetime of practice. If bearing Christian witness is akin to casting a net, are you practiced enough to be an effective fisher of people? What would taking the time and energy to learn how to cast a net for Christ mean to you? What would it mean to others in your life?
- Close your time together with the next Daily Office liturgy