

5th Sunday "C" 2010

I. Jesus sees two boats by the Lake of Gennesareth; He commandeers one of the boats and uses it as His pulpit, teaching the crowds a short distance from the shore. Jesus then tells Simon, whom we know better as Peter, to put out into deep water and lower the nets. It is Peter's first appearance in Luke's gospel and he tries to reason with Jesus. "Master, we have been hard at work all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets". Miracle of miracles, they caught so many fish that the nets were tearing. Just to make sure we get the point, St. Luke tells us the boats were in danger of sinking.

II. Like Peter, we rely on the "big catches", the big events to judge God's actions in our lives. But perhaps it's better to see Christ when the nets are empty and the rewards of labor few. Helen Keller, blind and deaf from birth, once said "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble". Readjusting our expectation, try to see the small tasks-standing in line with a kind word at the supermarket, calling a neighbor, going to Mass, as our greatest accomplishments-small but great steps on the path toward holiness.

III. Cardinal John Henry Newman was an English convert to the Catholic faith; he's in the process of being canonized at the present time.. Part of his holiness is recognized as his trust in God, even when things did not seem clear in his life. He once wrote:

God has created me to do Him some definite service

He has committed some work to me
which He has not committed to another.

I have a mission.

I may never know it in this life
but I shall be told it in the next.

Therefore I will trust Him.

...He does nothing in vain.

He knows what He is about.

He may make me feel desolate,

make my spirits sink,

hide my future from me-

still He knows what He is about.

Each of us must attend to how God acts in our lives
lest the ideas become so rigid and narrow that we
cannot see the forest for the trees. Do we see God when
the nets are full or are we attuned to God's presence
even when the nets are empty?