

Sermon for July 9,2023 – The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Sermon - 5th Sunday after Trinity – July 9,2023

From our Old Testament text comes prophecy. From our New Testament Gospel text comes fulfillment. Over and over. Sunday after Sunday. Divine Service after Divine Service. Old Testament to New Testament - prophecy to fulfillment – separated by hundreds of years – things foretold and things to come to fruition in Christ.

From our text from Jeremiah 16:14 - *“Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD,* - God speaks through Jeremiah and says again, behold, lookee lookee what I am going to do – the days are coming - the time is coming. God is speaking and saying, I am telling you what I am going to do, I am about to tell you, listen and look.

Continuing on in verse 16 the Lord says through Jeremiah - *“Behold, I will send for many fishermen,” says the LORD, “and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.* - Again God says, behold, lookee lookee, the Lord says He is going to send fisherman and hunters to look for His people. He will send them everywhere, even into the mountains and hills, even into the holes of the rocks. What is the purpose of sending these fishermen and hunters for these people?

Going on to verse 21 of Jeremiah 16 we hear the purpose: *“Therefore behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know My hand and My might; And they shall know that My name is the LORD.* Why all this sending of fishermen and hunters searching for people? So, that the people would know the Lord – to know His Name is the Lord – to know his hand meaning his power – to know God's might – to know what God is all about. But, notice that the people won't come to these conclusions about the Lord on their own. He says, behold – lookee, lookee – *I will this once cause them to know.* The Lord will send the fisherman and hunters but the seekers will fish them and hunt them – they will not cause them to know - God will do the “causing to know.” It literally takes an act of God for any man to believe in God and His Christ.

And we come to our Gospel text from Luke 5:1-11 where Jesus, followed by crowds, comes to a scene where fishermen have set their bases of operation – on the shore of Lake Genesserret – also known as the Sea of Galilee. After conversing with Simon, also called Peter, and learned that he and his brother Andrew and their partners, James and John, had fished all night and had caught nothing. Nevertheless, after teaching the crowds from Simon's boat, Jesus told Simon to put out to sea and let his nets down. Peter was hesitant to do so, but yielded to Jesus' command. They caught so many fish that Peter had to summon his partners to bring their boat and take some of the fish, still the two boats were sinking. And Simon Peter was overwhelmed with awe.

With this awe, sometimes called “Holy Fear”, Simon fell at Jesus' knees and confessed his sinfulness to Jesus, saying, *“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”* Notice the contrast between Simon Peter and Jesus, a sinful man (Peter) contrasted with Jesus the Lord. Peter had just encountered the GOD-Man. Now, he acknowledges that there is a great difference between him and the Lord. He, Peter, is a sinful man and Jesus is the Lord - the sinless Son of God. This would be a contrast that Peter would struggle with during the next three years of Jesus' ministry- as at various times - Peter would attempt to give advice to Jesus. Despite that struggle and sometimes being corrected by Jesus, it would be Peter who would give the great confession that we hear in Matthew 16:16 when Jesus asks Peter whom does he say Jesus is - *Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* Simon Peter would be one of the four fishermen whom Jesus called that day to be his first four disciples (students), later to be apostles (those who are sent). Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, then James and his brother John also known as the Sons of Thunder, sons of Zebedee.

In Jeremiah 16, the Lord prophesies that He would call fishermen and hunters to go search for his people, to find them. He would then cause them to know him – to know his Name – to know his power and glory and might.

In Luke 5, the Lord Christ called four fishermen – who, by the way were not very good sometimes at catching fish on their own – but He called these four fishermen to go

search for his people, to find them. Good luck, four fishermen as you try to convince stiff necked people to believe that a Jew from Nazareth is God (can anything good come from Nazareth?). But, they wouldn't need luck. Jesus says to them - *“Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”* That was all they needed. They caught fish at Jesus' command. They would also catch men at Jesus' command. Jesus would send these four into the world to teach and preach and baptize thus catching men. The number would grow to twelve who would originally be sent.

Here in these two texts we see prophecy and fulfillment again as we do from week to week. But in these texts, both of them, we see God's causation. God causes things to happen to fulfill His will. Especially he causes men to believe in Him as they hear God's performative word. From Isaiah 55:11 – *“So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth, it shall perform the things for which I purpose it, it shall not return unto me void.”*

It was God's Word that netted the great catch of fish. It would be God's Word spoken through the apostles that would net a great catch of men as we heard about in the book of Acts that there were some days when thousands came to faith in Christ. And nothing has changed. Dear ones, it is the Word of God that has brought you, sinner that you are, to faith. Though you were hidden in the mountains and the rocks of this world, so to speak, God's fishermen and hunters, his pastors, sought you out - not with a slick marketing presentation and a free meal - but with God's Word. And through His Word and His Word attached to the elements of water and bread and wine, He has kept you in the faith. Through teaching and preaching and Baptism and the Lord's Supper you live a life in the Christian Faith as God causes you to do through Word and Sacrament. The Lord who lives - strengthen you as you live – in His Church where He causes you to live - in the forgiveness of sins where there is life and salvation.

For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation.

Come to the Lord's Supper! Amen.