

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch, said Jesus.”

Luke 5: 4

A commonplace experience for most people is fatigue and tiredness at the end of a long day. And some days seem longer than others, especially if they seem very unproductive despite our best efforts. Such is the situation with Jesus and Sion Peter and his brother and their cousins in the gospel for today. In those days it was common for fishermen to work at night. Why? Well, there was no refrigeration. If they worked during the heat of the day and the fish they caught were stored in buckets onboard until they were finished then they could decay faster and not be able to be sold in the market. But if fishing during the night the fish could be sold first thing in the morning and then prepared right away, either smoking or salting or sautéing, for use later in the day or later in the week.

So, to have fished all night and be that tired and have nothing to show for it except an empty boat, and then have Jesus sit in the boat and teach from it. And then have Jesus tell them to put out into the deep and lower their nets. I surmise that none of them wanted to do that. Just go home and get some rest. But Jesus has a way of asking and looking at you. Do what he asks. Do what he says. Why? Because he wants always what is best for us even when we think we know as Peter did in this story.

And what happens? The enormous draft of fish. So many that Peter and company are blown away. So many that Peter realizes that he is in the presence of One the likes of which the world has never seen. It awes him. It humbles him. He becomes acutely aware of his own unworthiness. He tells Jesus to leave him. Jesus will have none of it. Jesus, instead tells Peter that from now on he'll be fishing for people.

Ever feel too tired, too exhausted to put out into the deep? Do it anyway. When the Lord bids us do something which seems outlandish and over the top—He knows something. Trust him. Trust him. Can you do that? That is the question of the week.