



Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

January 25, 2015

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalms 62:5-12 (6)

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

"Follow me,
and I will
make you fish
for people."



Answering the Call. Object: A telephone.

What do you do when there is an emergency? Let's say, for example, that someone has a serious injury or illness, and if they don't get help right away, they might die. What would you do? Right! You'd pick up the phone and call 9-1-1! (Substitute the appropriate emergency number for your area.)

When you call 9-1-1 and tell the person who answers that you need help right away, it is their job to see that you get help. That person would never say something like, "I'm sorry, we are really busy right now, maybe some other time." No way! They drop whatever they are doing and make sure that you get the help you need.

In our Bible story today, Jesus was walking along beside the Sea of Galilee preaching the good news of God when he made a call for help. He saw Peter and Andrew throwing a net into the water, because they were fishermen. He called out to them, "Come, follow me and I will teach you how to fish for people." You see, Jesus wanted Peter and Andrew to help him teach people about God's love for them. When Jesus called Peter and Andrew, they didn't say, "Not right now, we are busy fishing. Maybe some other time." No way! The Bible tells us that they left their nets and followed Jesus.

Jesus, Peter, and Andrew had gone a little farther when they saw James and John sitting in a boat mending their nets. When Jesus saw them, he called to them, "Follow me." They didn't say, "Not right now, we're busy mending our nets. Perhaps some other time." No, the Bible says that they left their father sitting in the boat with the hired hands and followed Jesus.

Jesus is still calling for help today. He has called you and me to help him to bring others into God's Kingdom. Is it an emergency? It sure is! It's a matter of life and death! The Bible says, "Unless you repent, you will all perish." (Luke 13:3) Jesus has called us, what will we say? What will we do? I hope and pray that we will drop whatever we are doing and answer the call.

Dear Jesus, we want to be faithful to answer your call. We want to fish for people -- just like Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Amen.

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Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news. Alleluia (Mark 1:15)

Word Search Puzzle

L	A	K	E	U	I	J	A	M	E	S	Z	S	O	C
H	F	Q	U	F	O	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	P	A
X	O	I	W	I	C	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	J	S
M	L	H	N	S	M	E	I	E	E	G	S	E	A	T
W	L	T	G	H	X	N	J	D	C	O	M	E	N	I
L	O	Q	Y	E	N	W	G	N	S	L	W	H	R	N
F	W	H	Q	R	E	O	C	B	G	L	O	T	O	G
S	M	Q	C	M	T	G	O	O	D	J	Q	F	G	G
B	P	D	F	E	S	L	B	O	A	T	Z	P	R	A
A	L	E	S	N	Y	F	A	T	H	E	R	E	Y	L
D	N	Q	Z	N	T	Z	L	V	W	S	H	X	D	I
T	P	D	P	T	Y	N	E	W	S	T	I	R	K	L
Q	V	Y	R	H	B	I	D	Q	O	K	O	M	Y	E
Z	R	E	P	E	N	T	D	R	E	E	N	F	O	E
F	I	G	U	K	W	I	B	X	B	D	Q	T	L	N

JOHN	NEWS	CASTING	FISHERMEN	SIMON
KINGDOM	BOAT	GALILEE	NETS	BELIEVE
ANDREW	REPENT	SEA	BROTHER	FATHER
GOOD	COME	FOLLOW	JAMES	LAKE

BIG FISH CATCH: The teacher can have a large net hanging on the wall (any kind of mesh or netting material is fine). Children can be told to run and find some fish around a designated area (on the wall, under chairs, hanging from doors, etc) and after finding a fish, they can quickly run back to the fish NET and clip their fish onto the net with a small clothes pin, or if possible, just stick the fish into the netting and run to find more fish!

FISH SEWING: Each child can be given 2 paper fishes to color and decorate. The teacher can have holes punched along the edges of each set of fish so after the children have colored the fish, they can use yarn to sew the two pieces of the fish picture together, using a small amount of cotton to stuff in the middle to make a rounded fish. Encourage children to write words from today's Bible lesson on their sewn fish.

CROSS FISH: Children can be given construction paper to tear out a CROSS and also to tear out a different colored construction paper FISH. Then write today's Bible verse or words from our prayer for today on the fish and cross and tape or glue the cross on top of the fish and hang by a string or yarn in the classroom to help children remember to FISH for MEN.



Jesus called out to them, "Come, by my disciples, and I will show
you how to fish for people!"
Mark 1:17

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