“Stay with us, Lord”
2021-2022 Year of the Holy Eucharist, Diocese of Jackson

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (Year C)
February 6, 2022

I. Theme: all three readings contain sections where someone comes to the realization of the majesty of God, and how small they are in comparison:
A. Isaiah see the vision of heaven open and cries out: “Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts!”
B. Paul writes: “I am the least of all the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.”
C. Peter declares: “Depart from me, Lord, for I am sinful man.”

II. We can consider this theme through the Gospel. Christ tells Peter to take him out fishing in the deep water.
A. This seems to be a ridiculous request to Peter because:
   1. They fished all night (night is the best time to fish, because it is quiet)
   2. Christ asks to go into the deep (but fish live in the shallows where there are plants to feed on)
B. But, Peter trusts Christ because, having heard Him preach, he knows Christ is a holy man. The amazing catch confirms to Peter the authenticity of Christ’s preaching and convicts Peter of his own deficiencies.
C. It is important that Christ doesn’t correct Peter when he declares his sinfulness. Peter is a sinner, but Christ is calling Him as-he-is to come and follow Him.

III. Christ takes the ordinary aspects of Peter’s life and raises them up. Peter remains a fisherman, but a fisher of men. Christ met Peter in his ordinary life, and despite his sins.
A. The calling of Christians is to live the life of Christ in our ordinary lives.
B. We can’t parcel out the time we give to God and the time we give to the other parts of our life. Christ needs to be part of all of our life. We are perpetually in his presence.
   1. Thus, we are meant to live the Christian life in our ordinary circumstances — in our families, our jobs, our school, in politics, etc.
   2. And, this can seem like a seemingly impossible task. What is my ordinary Christian life to a society that has rejected Christianity/morality? Will I have any success at all in trying to preach the gospel?
   3. Separated from Christ, this is an impossible task. But, Christ can take whatever we have to offer Him and radically transform it to change the live of others.
C. Saint Josemaría Escrivá: “Work is man’s original vocation. It is a blessing from God…the Lord, who is the best of fathers, plated the first man in Paradise ut operarétur, so that he would work…Before God, no occupation is in itself great or small. Everything gains hte value of the Lord with which it is done.”

Prepared by Fr. Aaron Williams