

Take-Home 1: You Shall Be Called Rock

Keep this sheet. You will need it again later in the study.

WHAT WE FOUND

Before Simon spoke a single recorded word, Jesus looked at him and renamed him: “You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter) (John 1:42). Cephas is Aramaic for rock. Future tense. Not a description of the impulsive fisherman standing there, but a promise about what grace would make of him. Then, on the lake, Jesus stepped into Simon's ordinary working life, borrowed his boat, and asked a professional to fish against his own judgment. “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets” (Luke 5:5). Faith acted on the word of Jesus, not on the evidence.

Then came the strangest moment of the night. Overwhelming generosity did not make Simon feel lucky; it made him feel unclean: “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord” (Luke 5:8). Together we found the same pattern in Isaiah 6: holiness comes near, sin is confessed, God reassures, and then, astonishingly, God sends. Jesus did not tell Simon his sin was no big deal, and He did not depart. He answered honest confession with a mission: “Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men” (Luke 5:10). And on the best fishing day of his life, Simon left everything. Surrender happened at the point of greatest attachment.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ambrose of Milan / *Exposition of the Gospel According to Luke, Book IV*

Of all the boats on the shore, the Lord chose Simon's to teach from, and it was Simon He commanded into the deep. St. Ambrose read the deep water as the depths into which Christ calls His people: deeper trust, deeper mystery, waters beyond our own skill. The Fathers cherished the picture of Christ teaching the crowds from Peter's boat.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Chrysostom / *Homilies on the Gospel of St. John, Homily 19*

St. Chrysostom marvels that Andrew, having found the Messiah, could not rest until he fetched his own brother; the greatest of the apostles was brought to Christ by simple family evangelization. And when Jesus renamed Simon, He was foretelling, not describing: the One who names is the One who transforms.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Paul II | *Novo Millennio Ineunte* (2001)

At the start of the new millennium, St. John Paul II gave the whole Church the words of Luke 5:4 as her program: *Duc in altum*, put out into the deep. The command spoken once from Simon's boat is spoken to each of us now: remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, look to the future with confidence.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Pray with Luke 5:1-11 once this week, slowly, placing yourself bodily in the scene: feel the boat, smell the nets, hear the command. Stay there until you can honestly answer, "What is Jesus asking me to put out into?"
2. Once this week, when you feel unqualified for something good in front of you, say silently: "At your word I will let down the nets," and do the thing.
3. Come next week having noticed one place in your life where your own competence has quietly made trusting God feel unnecessary.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

Luke 5:4 (RSV2CE)

MY GUESS (WRITE IT, FOLD THIS BOX CLOSED, AND DO NOT OPEN IT UNTIL YOUR LEADER SAYS SO)

Jesus just named Simon "Rock" before he had done anything to earn it. **What do you think it will take for Simon to actually become that man?** Write your honest guess below. Then one more line, just for you: **what would be hardest for YOU to leave in the boat?**

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read **Matthew 14:22-33**. Bring this sheet back with your guess folded closed.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 208, 878, 2001.