

WHAT WE FOUND

We mapped Simon Peter's collapse in the boat onto Isaiah 6 and found the same four beats: glory revealed, sinfulness confessed (depart from me, for I am a sinful man), fear relieved, mission given. Simon's knees worked out who was in his boat before his mouth could. We granted the scribes their theology at the paralytic's healing, only God can forgive sins, and watched Jesus prove the conclusion, that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins, by telling the paralytic to rise, take up his bed, and go home (Luke 5:24). Every confessional stands on that rooftop (CCC 1441-1445).

We ate at Levi's banquet, the first of Luke's great tables, and heard the mission statement: those who are well have no need of a physician. We saw the Twelve chosen after a night of prayer, a rebuilt Israel. And on the plain we let Luke's beatitudes and woes stand at full strength: blessed are you poor, woe to you that are rich, the Magnificat's reversal preached in the second person, closing with two houses and one difference between the builders: both hear, one does.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Ambrose of Milan (*Exposition of Luke, Book IV*)

Christ teaches from Peter's barque and fills its nets past breaking: other boats are called to help, yet it is Peter's boat the Lord chooses, and Peter's nets, torn but not lost, that hold the multitude.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyril of Alexandria (*Commentary on Luke, on the paralytic*)

They said truly that none can forgive sins except God alone, and the Lord accepted the premise: by healing the body at a word he demonstrated that the one they took for mere man wields the authority they reserved to God.

DIGGING TO THE ROCK

A reflection on Luke 6:47-49

Hearing the word is the beginning and not the building: to dig deep is to let the word cut past feelings and opinions until it reaches Christ the rock, for the storm is not a possibility but a schedule.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Go to Confession this week if you can; kneel where the paralytic lay.

- Pray by name, once a day, for the one person you would least like to bless.
- Try again, at his word, in one place you have already failed. Put out into the deep.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 6:36 *Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.* (RSV2CE)

Before next session: read Luke 7:1–8:56, a centurion, a widow's son, a weeping woman, and a storm.

Catechism this week: CCC 1441–1445, 858–860, 2611, 2544–2547.