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## THE CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES

The evangelist Luke gives us quite a few details about how the Lord called His first apostles to leave everything and to follow Him permanently. A little after his baptism in the Jordan River, He leaves Judea and ascends to Galilee. Then He begins preaching in the synagogues of Galilee and performing a great multitude of miracles and healings. Very many people gathered around Him. One day when very many people had gathered next to Lake Gennesaret, to hear His word, the Lord went up onto the boat of the brothers Peter and Andrew and asked them to depart a bit from the land. After this happened, from there He was teaching the people.

### **The nobility of the Lord**

After the end of His homily, as we know, He performed for the sake of His first disciples the miracle of fishing a great multitude of fish. Behind this miracle many thoughts are hid. In general, every word and action of the Lord comprises a many-faceted diamond, which, no matter what side one sees it from, he is overcome with great admiration and surprise.

First of all, the Lord filled the nets of His fishermen with fish, to reward them for the service which they did for Him in His sermon. The Lord's personality is characterized by spiritual nobility. His disciples ceded their boat to Him for a little bit, and He, moved out of a grateful disposition, offered back to them a huge quantity of fish. In this way, He gives an example to all of us how very careful we must be in the manner of gratitude to our little and great benefactors. Whoever lives in the spirit of love it is not possible for him to not be grateful to his fellow men. Ungratefulness comprises a clear indication of egotism.

Also with this answer of His to the good gesture of the two disciples He reveals the way He acts as God. The Lord behaves to all people with divine nobility. To our slightest response to His will He offers back to us His divine grace abundantly. Whereas He does not owe anything to us, when we turn a little towards the good, He rewards us richly, always respecting our free will. Furthermore,

granting us of His goods, with a noble and delicate manner, He invites us to enjoy, if we wish, even more goods.

This is what He also did to His first disciples. After He rewarded them with the rich catch of fish, He invited them to follow Him permanently, to henceforth become fishermen of the whole world, leading them to the truth of the Gospel. He used the wondrous fishing of the soulless fish as a triumphant proof of His power to set them up as fishermen of many people. The disciples could have refused His suggestion, in order to enjoy the fish they caught in a wondrous manner. However, longing for higher things, as men of good desires, they abandoned the temporal earthly reward, in order to enjoy the heavenly and eternal glory.

### **The humility of the apostle Peter**

The spontaneous reaction of the apostle Peter is noteworthy, when he saw the wondrous catch of fish he fell at Jesus's feet and was asking Him to leave from him, because he felt very sinful before Him. He did this, because as the Evangelist comments, he was overcome with amazement, in other words surprise, admiration and fear together. A contemporary charismatic elder used to say about himself that he very much liked to enthuse people. The Lord caused this divine enthusiasm to Peter's heart with a miracle. He touched him with His holiness and His divine power and made him take out from inside him, from the abundance of his heart, in other words his humble train of thought.

We this expression of Peter, a clear image of how a natural person should think and behave is given, the person who is as God wants him to be. The blessed elder Paisios used to say: "normally, the more kindness they show you, the more you must be altered, be dissolved, melt". The sick thing is for someone to behave with pride to the interest and love which someone else is showing him. The apostle Peter, because he had a deep sense of sinfulness inside him and understood the great holiness of the Lord, considered himself completely unworthy and incapable of keeping company with Him. He had before God the piety and fear which we encounter in many holy figures of the Bible. So for this reason, he was honored and elevated by the Lord and granted to be among His first apostles and chief disciples.

Let us also imitate this humility, so that we worthily bear the name of Christian. And if we do not have it, let us seek it with much faith from our God, who always abundantly offers His rich gifts to people, without scorning anyone. Furthermore this also is an indication of humility, for someone to know, in other words, from whom the grace of humility springs, that is from the Lord and God, who proclaims: "Learn of me that I am meek and humble of heart and you shall find comfort to your souls" (Mat. 11:29).

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