



72<sup>nd</sup> Year

Sept. 22, 2024

Pamphlet #38 (3721)

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## **THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 5:1-11)**

### **The reward of obedience**

*At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.*

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### **OUR TRUST IN GOD**

In these words of the Apostle, two things interweave. The first is experience. The second, trust in Jesus. Experience and

faith meet in the same heart. What should man follow? That which experience tells him about certain issues, or that which faith in Christ dictates to him?

In short, we could define experience as the distillation of life. It accumulates with all that we have lived, seen, heard, and suffered, by using our logic, observing around us, and delving into the laws that rule the world.

The protagonists of the Gospel passage of the 1st Sunday of Luke were fishermen. They had valuable experience in their work. The order they were given to fish was contrary to their experience. All night long they toiled, they stayed awake, but they caught nothing. To go fishing again on that day and at that time, and indeed after such a toil, was (so their experience told them) a vain effort.

Something similar happens in general and with human experience, when it comes face to face with great and serious spiritual issues. But to this kind of logic, Christian faith refuses to submit. It does not question the elements of truth that it has, but it sees further; it sees horizons that common logic and experience are unable to grasp.

## **Faith, the “foundation of things hoped for”**

Faith is "the personal foundation of things hoped for, the certainty about things that cannot be seen<sup>1</sup>," the Holy Scripture tells us. It is the assurance that everything that our Christian hope reveals is real, even though those things have not yet become tangible. It is the acceptance of things that, while we do not see them, faith informs us that they are more certain than what we perceive with our senses.

However, this trust in Christ does not remain in the theoretical area of the intellect. It comes alive; it expresses itself willingly with obedience, with action, despite the verdict of classical human logic.

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<sup>1</sup> English Translator's Note: From Hebrews 11:1. English translation of scriptural reference taken from Eastern / Greek Orthodox Bible. Copyright © by Laurent Cleenewerck, Editor.

The experience of the fishermen apostles assured them that every renewed attempt was unnecessary, because they would not catch anything. So why should they toil? However, trust in the word of the Lord imposes something else, and Peter obeys Christ, not his mind. "At your word, I let the net loose." And we see that, despite the contrary experience, despite the unfavorable prospects, they were able to catch fish.

## **The importance of divine omnipotence**

In life, neither human logic, nor human predictions, nor even natural conditions have the final say. Divine omnipotence, divine will does. With this trust and obedience to the word of God, new possibilities emerge in life. Old failure gives way to successes, discouragement to unexpected joy. The will is armed with new strength and perseverance, because it is based on the certainty that "nothing shall be impossible with God."

Trust and obedience to God ultimately overturn what is established, creating new and blessed situations. Shall we, then, overlook human experience? No. We will simply submit it to the divine logic of faith. Each of His new commands does not abolish experience, but raises it to other levels, illuminates it, and makes it more human.

The Apostles, when they were casting their nets again, did not discard their experience. Instead, they fished as they knew how. But with a new perspective, with a new light, which the trust in the word of Christ gave them. They combined their experience with fervent faith in the Lord and succeeded. It is precisely this blessed combination of experience and faith that we are called to realize. This is how we will step firmly on the ground, proceeding towards the Kingdom of God!

September 22, 2024: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Phokas the Hieromartyr. Bishop of Sinope († 117).  
Phokas the Gardener († 320). Isaac and Martinus the Martyrs.  
4<sup>th</sup> Tone – Eothinon: 2 – Epistle: 1 Cor. 16:13-24 – Gospel: Luke 5:1-11  
NEXT SUNDAY: Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2nd Sunday of Luke  
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 – Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

## SCHOOL FOR THE TRAINING OF CANDIDATE CATECHISTS

In a period of multifarious ideological, spiritual, and social confusions, the functioning of the School for the Training of Candidate Catechists comes to offer the young people who long to serve the Church through the work of Catechism of children and adolescents, the capability to be trained practically but also experientially, and simultaneously to make them partakers of undertaking responsibilities to trustworthily witness the faith, the liturgical life, and the Gospel Word.

The duration of the studies is two years. The lessons of the 1st year take place every Saturday 4:00-6:30 p.m., and the 2nd year on the same day from 7:00-9:30 p.m.

- Presuppositions: Students of both genders are accepted, aged 18-40 years old, after they present: (a) Proof of studies (at least a high school diploma), and (b) a recent photograph.
- The beginning of lessons: On Saturday October 5<sup>th</sup>, the beginning of the lessons of the Training School will take place.
- For more information, those interested can contact:
  - The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry, tel. 210-727-2347-348 (Monday-Friday 8am-2pm)
  - Email [katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr](mailto:katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr)
  - The Apostoliki Diakonia Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>
  - The website [www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr](http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr) in the section “ΠΟΙΟΙ ΕΙΜΑΣΤΕ” and the subsection “ΤΟΜΕΑΣ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΣΕΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΟΥ ΜΑΡΤΥΡΙΑΣ”.

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