



74th Year

September 27, 2026

Pamphlet #39 (3826)

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.

THE CALLING OF THE DISCIPLES TO THE APOSTOLIC MINISTRY

The Gospel passage read today has as its theme the calling of the first Disciples of the Lord to the work of the evangelical preaching, a fact narrated by all four Evangelists. Christ, perhaps for the umpteenth time, was found at the lake of

Gennesaret, which is also called the Sea of Galilee or of Tiberias. Crowds of people had gathered there to hear Him. The Lord saw on the shore of the lake, the fishing boats of Peter and of the sons of Zebedee, that is, James and John.

He entered into Peter's boat and asked him to push out a little from the land, so that He might be heard more clearly by the people; and after sitting down, He began to teach from there. As we know from the New Testament, this was not the first time Christ encountered His future Disciples. The Evangelist Luke recounts that Jesus had visited Peter's house in nearby Capernaum and had healed his mother-in-law. And the Evangelist John says that Andrew, Peter's brother, as well as John himself, had met the Lord immediately after His baptism in the river Jordan. Nevertheless, the future Apostles were not yet ready to follow Christ completely. They continued to live according to their usual daily occupations.

Obedience to the command of Christ

When the Lord finished His discourse, He turned to Peter and commanded him to put out into the deep waters of the lake and to let down the nets for a catch. He, and this is the wondrous thing on his part, even though he knew very well how unreasonable such a command sounded – to fish at such an unsuitable hour, when in fact throughout the entire night, which is the proper time for fishing, they had caught absolutely nothing – not only did he not object, but he did exactly what Christ asked of him. The result of his obedience to the Lord's command was the well-known miraculous catch of fish, which was so great that Peter was forced to call for the other boat, that of his friends and partners, James and John, to come and help. The nets, from the sheer multitude of fish, began to tear. The fish, although divided between the two boats, nearly caused them to sink from the excessive weight.

The awareness of unworthiness before divine majesty

Peter realized that what had happened was not something ordinary. It was a sign, an extraordinary and unique event, a calling addressed to himself, to Andrew, to James, and to John, to follow Christ as His Disciples. And their response, expressed through the mouth of Peter, shows that they had full awareness of the seriousness of the event. They were seized with astonishment and awe; for this reason, Peter falls at the knees of Jesus and, in fear, begs Him to depart from his boat. He does not consider himself worthy to be near the Lord.

Now, however, the moment comes for Jesus to relieve Peter from his difficult position and to complete His calling to His future Disciples and Apostles: Do not be afraid, He tells him; from now on you will not be catching fish, but you will be gaining people for the Kingdom of God. And then they left everything and followed Him.

God's calling to every human being

The Lord, throughout all ages, calls every person to Himself. He asks that we follow Him with faithfulness, with trust in His love, with a humble train of thought, so that we may be led not only to the knowledge of God, but also to self-knowledge. This calling expresses God's desire that we experience a true and essential relationship with Him, that we acquire the spiritual awareness that our faith in Him and our obedience to His divine will heal us, sanctify us, and transform us. They make us partakers of the gift of divine adoption, sharers in the ineffable glory, the light, and the immortality of God. And furthermore, our response to His calling enables us to be balanced, just, and peaceful in our relationship with our fellow man, because we place the Lord as the guide and teacher of our life.

Archimandrite N. K.

September 27, 2026: 1st Sunday of Luke

Callistratus the Martyr († 304), Aristarchus the Apostle,
and Aquilina the New Martyr († 1764).

Pl. 4th Tone – Eothinon: 6 – Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1
– Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

NEXT SUNDAY: October 4, 2nd Sunday of Luke
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 – Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

SEMINAR FOR LEARNING GREEK SIGN LANGUAGE

The offering of pure and sincere love is the motivation behind the creation and operation of the Seminar for Learning Greek Sign Language. Participants in this educational activity of the Apostolic Ministry, which is offered for free, have the opportunity to help all our fellow men who lack hearing but have other means of communication and who simultaneously thirst to learn about God and the Church.

- Online seminar classes begin Thursday, October 8.
- For more information, those interested can contact:
 - The Office of Catechism and Youth of the Apostolic Ministry
tel. +30 210-7272-347 or -348 (Mon-Fri 8am-2pm)
 - Email: katixisi@apostoliki-diakonia.gr
 - The Facebook page of the Apostolic Ministry:
<https://www.facebook.com/apostoliki.diakonia>, and
 - Receive information from the Training School's website
<http://www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr/portfolio/sen>.

Follow the Program of the Radio Station of the Church of Greece:
www.ecclesia.gr

VOICE OF THE LORD, a weekly pamphlet of Orthodox faith and life of the "Apostolic Ministry of the Church of Greece". Iasiou 1, 115 21 Athens. Publisher – Director: Metropolitan of Phanariou, Agathangelos. Editorial office, tel. 210.7272.331. Processing, tel. 210.7272.388. Through the holy churches, it is distributed free of charge. From the Printing Office of the Apostolic Ministry.

The *VOICE OF THE LORD* worldwide via the Internet:
www.apostoliki-diakonia.gr
