

**6. 2-6-22**

**Sermon- Be Good Fishermen**

**Scripture- Luke 5:1-11, Psalm 138**

**Hymns- 782, 541, 322**

**Theme- I think we would all verbally agree that as a Church, well, really the vision of any church, is to reach people for Jesus and to teach people about Jesus. And, so this passage gives us a very appropriate metaphor for the "why" and the "how" of reaching and teaching. Jesus tells us to fish, and the he Church could be seen as a fishing boat.**

**I. So, I Have a Fish Story for you...**

In today's passage, Luke tells us a great fish story. Sometimes recreational fisherman spend more time creating a fish story to tell when they get home, Honey, honest, that fish was THIS BIG!

But the fish story we read about in this passage is all true...all true! I want you to think about going fishing... because Jesus says he will make us "Fishers of Men!" (people).

**A. Jesus tells us to fish: Luke 5:4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."**

I think we would all verbally agree that our Church, well really the **vision of any church** is to reach people for Jesus and to teach people about Jesus.

And, so this passage gives us a very appropriate metaphor for the "why" and the "how" of reaching and teaching.

Jesus tells us to relate it all to fishing, and with that in mind we can envision Trinity Church itself as a fishing boat.

I think we can go further by saying that our Church is not just a normal everyday fishing boat but a **commercial fishing boat**. Peter, James, and John were commercial fishermen. They did this for a living.

If you have ever lived near the ocean you know that fishing commercially is very hard work. In order to understand the true task we are being called to, we have to look at the **type of boat that the church is not.**

**A. Trinity Church is not a cruise ship.** I hear cruise ships are fun. From my discussions with those who have gone on a cruise ship I think that all you do on a cruise ship is eat a lot, and then spend a lot of time in the bathroom.

Also, from the information that I have received it also seems that when you are on a cruise ship you spend a lot of time in the middle of the ocean without properly working toilet facilities.

**But I hear it is fun!** You are served by others. You recreate a lot. You see a lot of shows. You may eat a lot of fish, but you are not doing any fishing.

So, our church is not a cruise ship. I don't think you can fish from a cruise ship. You would probably get in trouble if you did.

**B. Trinity Church is also not a pontoon boat.** Dani and I own a used pontoon boat with another couple. It can be a lot of relaxed fun. You get on the boat with lots of good food. You meander around the river stopping to enjoy the sights.

I call it a floating front porch. You may even pull up to someone's dock and chat with them and offer them some of your food. A pontoon boat is fun. You may fish off a pontoon boat, but it really isn't for fishing. Mostly it is for relaxation.

So our church is not a pontoon boat.

**C. This Church is not a recreational fishing boat.** For awhile my brother in law and I owned a bass boat. As you know it's best not to own a boat; it's best to have a friend who owns a boat. My experience with owning a boat is that it is mostly a driveway decoration.

My father-in-law has a wise statement which says the two greatest days in a boat owner's life are the day you buy it and the day you sell it. Everything else in between is pure aggravation.

Anyway, Doug and I would go fishing every now and then in our bass boat. It was fun, and we caught a few fish...very few fish.

Therefore it wasn't a commercial fishing vessel. Not really. Mostly it was for catching a few fish and throwing them back in.

**This Church is not a recreational fishing boat.** We are to be a commercial fishing vessel. Commercial fishing is about catching fish...lots of fish. It is hard work. It takes great strength. There are long hours in commercial fishing.

If you have ever tuned into the shows called "Deadliest Catch", and "Wicked Tuna", you know that those fishermen are risking their lives on a daily basis...all for a big catch. They invest their very lives in their pursuit of the fish.

Sometimes here at Trinity we might lapse into thinking we are on a cruise ship or a pontoon boat or maybe even a recreational bass boat.

**II. In Today's Passage we should notice that Jesus tells us not only to fish, but fish in the deep water.** (I am guessing that they had fished all night in the shoals, in the shallow areas and caught nothing.

**A. The analogy here is that if you are going to not only reach but also teach, you have to be a church that goes deep into people's lives.** Think of it this way: for the most part people belong to a church before they fully believe in Christ. They have actually joined so they can be led into a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ.

**Also, people belong and believe before they start to behave in accordance with God's design for their lives.**

Therefore, the Church, if we are going to reach and teach, must go deep into peoples' lives.

There is stuff that is seriously wrong with people. Change takes time so people have to belong...they have to feel and to know that they are accepted as one of the group.

They need to understand they are truly one of the family of God and then change starts to happen, sometimes very slowly. People come to believe correctly and behave correctly but only after they know they belong.

Also, we must conclude that God planted us into this community so long ago to reach the people He places in our paths, and because of that we must always be prepared to go deep into the life of the community.

Just like a **person** can do things that are seriously wrong, so also a community can do things that are seriously wrong. Collective sin can be endemic and insidious. The Church, if it is to obey Jesus, must work with people to remove the sin and replace it with Godliness. **We must go deep.**

**B. Of Course in our human nature, there are times we may protest.**

**Luke 5:5** Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

They protested because...They were weary. They were weary from fishing all night. Fellow soldiers in the Lord, if you are hearing this, I know you are weary. We all get weary.

Sometimes we are on shore after a hard day's work, washing the nets, ready for relaxation and recovery and the call or email or facebook or tweet comes in and **we must get back in the boat.**

We do get weary. **Galatians 6:9** reads, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

**But sometimes I get pretty tired.**

These men fish only at night in the shallows. It seems from the passage itself that day-time fishing in the deep was not the traditional way of commercial fishing on the Sea of Galilee.

**In today's church you almost hear in Peter's complaint the seven famous last words of many Churches – (1) we've (2) never (3) done (4) it (5) that (6) way (7) before.** We say, "But Jesus, we only fish at night. We only fish in the shallow areas. We've never done it that way before."

Maybe they fussed and fought too much. Let me suggest that in the boat there were two-too many Sons of Thunder and one-too

many sharpened-tongued Peters who just can say some very unkind things. (**Fishing with the Sons of Thunder? No thank you!**)

In Church life, I've noted that when the **fussing** and **indecision** go **up** the fishing goes **down**. Some churches can spend their time fussing and disagreeing so much **that they forget to fish at all**.

**III. We Must Remember and Be Encouraged by the fact that there is more than one net – there are to be many nets of all sizes.**

Jesus told them in **Verse 4** to: "Let down your **NETS** for a catch." Also **Verse 7** reads, "So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink."

**A. At Trinity we have lots of nets.** We have nets just for children. We have nets just for teens. We have nets just for teaching others about Jesus. We have nets just for helping people recover from old hurts, hang-ups, and habits. We have lots of nets.

I have noticed something interesting: If you want to see where God is leading your Church, notice the people (and their nets) God is bringing your way.

All of our ministries at this church should be initiated because God called other people here to bring their nets so that we will reach and teach people about Jesus.

Dani has a cousin named Aaron who loves to fish, and he is **really good at it**.

When I go fishing by myself, I normally do catch **some fish**.

When I go fishing with a good fisherman like Aaron, however, I catch lots more fish than when I go alone.

The reason is that a good fisherman really knows how to fish. **We all need to work on being good fishermen...the best we can be for our Lord and our God.**

We can catch many fish if we listen to someone who is a good fisherman. Let's be that guy!

If you want to be “fishers of men” you must listen to Jesus. Be guided in all things by the Good Fisherman!

And He is a great fisherman!

So, people of Trinity, Let’s go fishing, what do you say?

Amen, Let us pray!