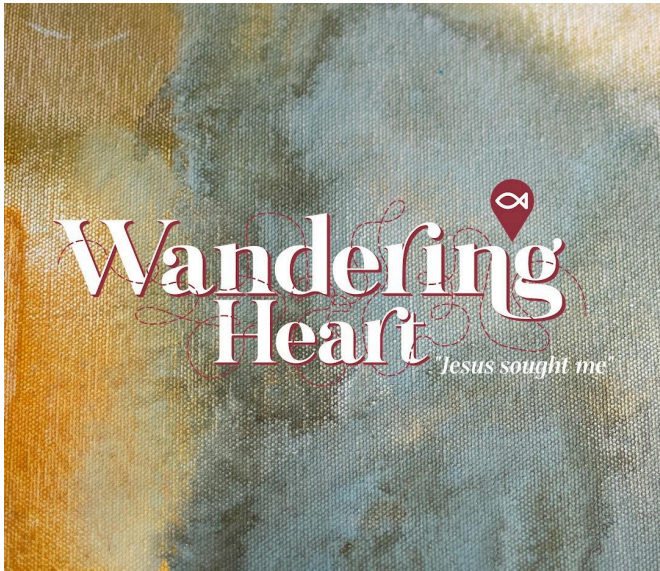


WANDERING HEART: JESUS SOUGHT ME

February 18, 2024

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Luke 5:1-11

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, 2he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. 4When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, ‘Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.’ 5Simon answered, ‘Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.’ 6When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. 7So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

8But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, ‘Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!’ 9For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; 10and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, ‘Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.’ 11When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Have you ever been gifted something and your first response was shame, embarrassment, or resistance to the gift? What happened, and what did you learn from that experience?
3. Jesus invites Peter and the crew out into the “deep waters” (a symbol of chaos). What “deep waters” might Jesus be calling his church to navigate in our day and age so that we can discover the surprise of new and abundant life?
4. Jesus calls Peter, and the church, to be about *people*—not ideas, dogmas, or buildings; though of course those things are not irrelevant to people. Even so, what does it mean for the

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church today to be about *people*?
What is it about Christ and his church that people most need to hear, experience, and live into?

5. What might you need to “leave behind” in this season of life in order to more truly follow the call of Christ?
6. This is the first Sunday of Lent. Reflect on and share about how you understand and practice Lent. What is your focus this season in preparation for the joy and new life of Easter? If you’ve practiced Lent previously, reflect on or share your experience—what did you learn, how did you grow, what worked or didn’t work for you?

If you’d like to learn more about Lent, and creative ways to practice it, visit:

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