



Caught in a Net

Read: Matthew 4:12-23

In the gospel we hear Jesus call the first disciples. As Jesus is walking by the Sea of Galilee he calls out to Peter and Andrew, "come, follow me." They immediately drop their nets, leave everything behind and follow Jesus.

What does this mean for us? We all receive the same call from the Lord. Each one of us is invited to leave our nets and follow Jesus. The nets of our lives consist of those things that prevent us from growing in our faith. What are the nets we carry around? Examine your bank statement and see what you spend money on. Check your day planner and look at your time commitments. These are the nets we get caught in.

Some of the nets we find ourselves in are a part of life. Unlike the disciples, we aren't called to leave everything, but we are called to reorder our priorities. Leaving our nets behind means that we must be deliberate about our spiritual growth. When we set aside a certain time each day for prayer, we must honour it. This may require that we turn off Netflix, power down our phones or log off of Facebook.

At first this may seem like a difficult task, even a bit crazy, after all this is "my" time. It's in these moments we must recognize that Jesus is calling us to put down our nets. St. Paul reminds us that this type of behaviour seems foolish to those who don't have a relationship with God, but for those who do, God will fill them with his power (1 Cor. 1:17-18). Putting down our nets and making the effort to grow in our faith is the most rewarding thing we can do.

What do I want you to do? Open your day planner and schedule in a half hour this week to spend with Jesus. Read a spiritual book, reflect on the upcoming Sunday readings, or spend some time in silence with God.