

**“THE MANIFESTATION OF WISDOM”**  
**February 6, 2022, SUNDAY SERVICE & SERMON**  
**Pastor Tom Olson; Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church**

**PRELUDE:** Lisa Gabbert (Osthus)

**PSALM 138:6-8** Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar. 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. 8 The LORD will fulfill [his purpose] for me; your love, O LORD, endures forever--do not abandon the works of your hands.

**HYMN #521 “Thank You, Lord”**

**CONFESSION OF SIN:** Psalm 51:8-13 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will turn back to you. Amen

**CHILDREN’S SERMON:** Going Fishing, *Matthew 4:19* *And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** *Isaiah 6:1-8* *In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

**EPISTLE LESSON:** *1 Corinthians 14:12b-20* *Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church. 13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. 16 If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say "Amen" to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? 17 You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. 18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church, I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. 20 Brothers, stop thinking like children. In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults.*

**READER:** Here ends the reading of God’s Word.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:** God be praised, for His glad Tidings!

**CONFESSION OF FAITH:** *I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose*

*again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And is seated on the right hand of the Father, And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen*

**GLORIA PATRI: Ambassador Hymnal p. 4 (please put on screen)** *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER FOR OFFERING**

**PRAISE AND WORSHIP SONGS:** Chosen by Lisa.

### **SERMON TITLE: “FISHING”**

**Luke 5:1-11; Pastor Tom Olson; February 6, 2022**

*Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen*

**REGRET:** Football is almost over and it is time to focus on FISHING! This year is going to be really different without Arv Erickson to tell his fishing stories. Arv was like a dad to so many of us. At one point my dad was a very active fisherman. He would go fishing in the Mississippi River and take trips to Canada. I think he took my brother out in Canada but I had to stay in the cabin because I was too small. It was a tragedy that we got so busy that we didn't have any time for fishing.

**MEMORIES:** Something wonderful happens when a dad takes a child fishing. It is not like going to their ball games. It is slow, peaceful, you talk and become friends. I know Gary, Nate, Glenn and Carol in a very special way because we have gone fishing together. In two parishes I have served we have had church fishing trips with fathers and sons. To this day, those of us who went fishing feel very close, even though we have not seen each other for years. One person from Cloquet wrote to me at Christmas and told me as much.

**OVERVIEW:** Today we are by the Sea of Galilee, it is a beautiful morning, the exhausted fishermen just came in after a night of fishing but catching nothing. Jesus is so pressed by the crowds that he gets into Simon's fishing boat and they row out into the water, a natural amphitheater, from there he teaches the crowds about God's kingdom and the fishermen have a life changing encounter.

#### **I. TEACHING EAGER PEOPLE**

***Luke 5:1-3 One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, with the people crowding around him and listening to the word of God, 2 he saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. 3 He got into one of the***

*boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat.*

OPPORTUNITY: The whole thing started with a problem. Jesus had no good way to teach the crowds who were packed into that space along the Sea of Galilee. Going out into the water in a boat would make a perfect amphitheater. It probably offered wonderful acoustics. He specifically picked Simon (Peter's) boat and asked him to row out. Then he sat down in the boat, with Peter at his side, and taught the crowd.

ROUGHNECK: I don't think we realize what a coarse and rough man Peter was at that time. I would not be surprised if Jesus was criticized for picking the boat of the man on the lake with the filthiest mouth and hottest temper. It would be like choosing a sleazy night club or a crude mechanic's shop as a location to have a Bible study...and maybe that is just what we should be doing! (I would love to see more Bible studies and prayer meetings out in homes and also in these kinds of unlikely places where seeking souls tend to hang out.) Undoubtedly Peter had never in his life been singled out as a host for a Bible lesson. The longer Jesus taught the more conviction of sin came upon Peter as Jesus was TEACHING EAGER PEOPLE from his boat.

## **II. AWAKENING FOUL SINNERS**

*Luke 5:4-9a When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." 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." 6 When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. 7 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. 8 When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" 9 For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, 10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners.*

REQUEST: When Jesus was done teaching, he asked Peter to go out into the deep water and let his nets out. They had fished all night and caught nothing so they were in no mood to try again. I only wish we could hear the tone of voice that Peter used when he agreed to do it. It would be like telling an experienced vacuum cleaner salesman to go back into a neighborhood where he had just tried every door to go there a second time. I can't imagine Peter's tone of voice was very good.

ENLIGHTENMENT: Peter put the nets out and got an abundant catch. They had so many fish that he had to call for help from another boat. I think Peter acknowledged his bad attitude and life when he knelt before Jesus and said, **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"** To me, this was Peter's AWAKENING. When we see our own sin and fault in that way, the forgiveness of Jesus becomes precious to us. When we admit our sin and weakness, then God

can use us. I think that the fact that they all ***“were astonished at the catch of fish”*** shows us that they didn’t have much FAITH in Jesus at this point. But that was beginning to change...first the water to wine, then demons cast out and the sick healed and now they saw this great miracle that challenged their own personal expectations.

FAITH: There is nothing that changes our lives like getting our faith in the power of God increased. When I start fretting about the future, I like to remind myself that Jesus is on the throne in heaven and has everything under control. My job is to trust and obey...period.

POWER: Here are two verses about God’s lead roll in changing our lives, from our OK Bible study: ***1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful and HE WILL DO IT.*** Jesus was TEACHING these self-reliant FISHERMEN A LESSON about trust and obedience. Have we been awakened? Have we learned to trust and obey?

### III. CHOOSING UNLIKELY DISCIPLES

***Luke 5:9b-10 Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." 11 So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.***

REJECT: We see the outcome of this event: Jesus asked Peter to become his disciple and follow Him. I find it interesting that the very person that would be rejected by every seminary in the world, is the one that Jesus calls to become one of the greatest disciples and church planters in history. He had a foul mouth, he had a volatile temper, he had no formal education that would be expected of a teacher, he was not from any family of note and yet this is Jesus prime pick. I am greatly encouraged by this. If God could make something out of Peter that means that even the most unlikely people I meet, are potentially great church leaders if God get’s a hold of them.

UNEDUCATED: Peter was uneducated as far as book learning goes. Some of our pastors were discussing how little Bible knowledge their confirmation students have these days. Let me quote a young Free Lutheran pastor who recently said this: *“A conversation I had today in confirmation was saddening but enlightening. My students literally had no idea when Jesus was born - one guessed (both BC and AD after a discussion on what those terms were), another 1000 AD, and the last one guessed 1942!”*

UNCONVERTED: But I remember that everyone I went to confirmation with in 1974 had been to Sunday school for 6 years or so and they had much better Bible knowledge. But they also had much less interest. Their parents forced them to go to confirmation. The Sunday after confirmation, most of them dropped out of church for the rest of their lives (along with many of their parents). I would much rather have a student, like Peter, that was lacking in knowledge but spiritually alive and vibrant. You can teach information but you can’t force

application...faith in Christ. Jesus sees potential most can't see in us JESUS CHOSE UNLIKELY DISCIPLES.

COME: As you come to the Lord's Table today don't say, "God can't use me, I don't have the talent or knowledge to serve the Lord." All you have to know is John 3:16 and have a personal testimony and you can be a great disciple of the Lord. The key is to have faith in the Lord. He now invites you: "Come in poverty and meanness, come defiled without, within. From infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin. Wash your robes and make them white. Ye shall walk with God in light." Amen.

*Now may the peace of God that surpasses all human comprehension, guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen*

**HYMN #257 "Break Thou the Bread of Life"**

**HOLY COMMUNION (Dave Fischer prep and help)**

**HYMN # 248 "On Our Way Rejoicing"**

**POSTLUDE: Lisa Gabbert**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON:** *Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7 With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

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