

Based on the gospel for Sunday 10 February - Luke 5:1-11

## "Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

So far Jesus has preached only in the synagogues of Galilee. This time he chooses to preach from a fishing boat in Lake Gennesaret.

After speaking to the crowd he calls the earliest disciples: Simon, James and John. All three fishermen are overcome by the huge catch of fish, but it is Simon who first puts his feelings into words. "Leave me, Lord", he says in awe, falling to his knees, "for I am a sinful man."

Jesus sees his humility and his faith, and loves him; far from leaving him, he makes Simon the head of the Church. It is his very humility that qualifies him for the job. Simon Peter must accept the great gifts he is offered, and go forth to share them with all those in need.

The disciple's instinctive exclamation calls to mind the words we say in Mass when the host is held up and we declare "Lord, I am not worthy..."

Like Simon Peter, we respond with awe when faced with the great abundance and generosity of God. And like him, it is our responsibility to share the gifts we have received with people in need.



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Lord,  
You have given us the gifts of creation, provided for all and to be shared by all. May  
we share your abundance with all who go hungry.  
Amen.