

**This message touched my heart and I wanted to share the Readings for Thursday of the Twenty-second Week in Ordinary Time / The Gospel is Luke 5:1-11**

**-This is a favorite story of mine where Jesus is instructing the failed expert fishermen (Peter and companions) when to cast their nets; i.e.; to catch fish.**

**Set-up: They have been fishing all night / They are now cleaning their nets / they are done! / Jesus gets into Peter's boat (metaphor: His life) / This is an image of the Spiritual Life.**

**-Peter says: "at your command I will lower the nets."**

**-Notice because he is obedient (listens to Jesus) Peter is now open to Grace.**

**-Talk about trust and really handing the situation to Jesus.**

**-Irony: Jesus is instructing fishermen in a situation they know very well.**

**-They are done for the night / With that particular situation and moment.**

**-Is there something we really need to give to Jesus / Something right in front of us where we need to simply say / "at your command I will lower the nets."**

**-1 Cor. 3:18-23: "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain" and**

**-Psalm 24: "This all belongs to God" / Thus; He can help us sort it out.**

**-Sometimes we are looking at things and situations from a practical worldly view and not with true Godly Wisdom (through the lens of our Catholic Faith).**

**-This reminded me today / Just to let go and give it to God / No matter how I am seeing it from a human perspective & reason, and not allowing for Grace and Godly Wisdom.**

**-The Spiritual Life: When Jesus comes into our boat (life)**

**-He will always lead us to the depths. ("Put out into the deep"), as St. John Paul II loved to quote. More dangerous? Yes. More exciting? Yes.**

**-The single most important decision that you will ever make is this: Will you cooperate with Jesus once he decides to get into your boat?**

**-Because when I am patient / Let something go / Lower the nets at Jesus request.**

**-When I look back at that situation / It usually has come to a wise conclusion / and or has been sorted out in a way that has brought about a greater good.**

**With early voting to begin in North Carolina on October 17, 2024, I am using this message as a teaser to get us to think about how to vote using Godly wisdom and a Catholic understanding of Life issues, our God given gifts of human sexuality, marriage and family, and to ask ourselves: "Which candidates are more open to allowing us to live out our Catholic faith / To worship freely / To be able to engage freely to discuss our religious beliefs in the public square" / Summarized:**

**Which candidates are more open to allowing for true religious freedom. I will offer more, including a prayer, before early voting begins.**

**Vivat Jesus,  
Father Vic Gournas**