



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY February 10 & BEYOND”**

## **“Jesus: The Audio/Visual Expert”**



We don't usually think of Jesus in terms of A/V, or of I.T., or other specifications of modern communications. The story coming up on Sunday in our parish gathering of worship, though, might give you a new appreciation for Jesus' abilities, and gifts, in this area.

The reading from the Gospel of Luke on Sunday at All Saints' is the first several verses of what is known as Chapter 5. And, actually, if you are going to be specific as a communicator, it must be noted that the Gospel reading includes TWO stories, AND a follow-up “object lesson” for Jesus' to Jesus' closest followers.

Here's the first scene: people were pressing in to hear Jesus teach. He was at the shore of Lake Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee). The implication is if they kept pressing, he would eventually back step into the water. Here's the first Master Audio/Visual technique: get out onto the water, and allow the water to reflect the sound of his voice toward the crowd, increasing the volume of his voice at the same time. Basic physics. Brilliant decision. But first he has to have a platform! So he steps into one of Peter's boats and asked him to get him out from the shore a little. Not just “push me out” – that had no guarantee of placement. No, the request was more specific, that Peter would “put out a little from the land,” which implies two things: that Peter was in the boat with him as his A/V assistant, and second, that an anchor was probably used to stay put.

Now, I will suggest that this was audio technology that would have been well known at that time. Certainly, for those in the fishing and merchant marine industries, who knew from experience that their voices over water would carry farther and more distinctly.

Point: Jesus knew where he was, was culturally and socio-economically aware, and able to take advantage of his surroundings in order to communicate his Good News. By the way, the first to broadcast a worship service by live radio was an Episcopalian congregation in Pittsburgh, PA.

The second act of brilliant communicating was after he was finished speaking from the boat, but still out on the water with Peter. Apparently already knowing that Peter had spent all night with his fishing company with no results, he directed Peter to put out the nets on the deep side of the boat. Perhaps this was an attempt to thank Peter for his A/V assistance, being so tired and all. Peter objected, but did what Jesus said. The nets, amazingly, filled in with an enormous amount of fish, enough to start breaking the nets, and for Peter to signal to the other boats to come and assist the harvest.

Now this kind of communication, without sonar, was an incredible act of knowing where. This didn't come from knowing the fishing community or the water. This was Jesus as the Son of God pointing out right at that moment where the fish would be. That is revelation communication. Call it prophecy, or call it a word of knowledge, that kind of communication also has its place in the Good News of Jesus. In fact, it caused Peter to fall to his knees before Jesus in a moment of self-abasement. We would call that an immediate overwhelming sense of humility.

It's always the best thing to show humility – humbleness – in the face of God's power and love, and that is a great thing for US to communicate. But the communication "skill" for Jesus, brings us to this point: Jesus knows who we are. He knows where we live. He knows what we do. He knows the technology of God to bring God's extraordinary power into our lives. This is one facet of the communication of God's love to us, and He CONTINUES to communicate with ALL of His disciples in this same way. How do you think any prayer is ever answered?!

As an added bonus to these stories, Jesus talks about communication very directly. The fish have been caught; Peter falls to his knees; everyone there has got their mouths open to the lake beach below them. Jesus essentially says, "You think providing these fish and you catching them is something? You follow me, and I will show you how to "catch" men with the Good News, that they might follow me."

And so, the ultimate communication is seen in teaching God's word, in the display of God's power, and now showing others how to do the same to bring others to Christ. Christian communication, however means – by speaking over the water, by revelation of God's hand and power, by talking about Jesus to others, by radio, by TV, by YouTube! – is the art, the gift, the skill, the talent of bringing others to Christ.

Fr. Robert G. Eaton, Interim Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Fifth Sunday of the Epiphany

Judges 6:11-24a Psalm 85:7-13, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY: The Fifth Sunday of the Epiphany**

8:30a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn High Mass (Church)

*—The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue—*

*Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

**MONDAY:** 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

**TUESDAY:** Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

**FRIDAY:** AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)