

# The Abundant catch

Albert Carpentier OP, 1965  
Paper Print, 42 x 44.5 cm  
© Société expo-bible du Québec

Luke 5:1-11 | 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time (C)



The subject of our meditation is a paper print by Dominican Father Albert Carpentier. It depicts an important scene in the Gospel where the apostle Peter plays a leading role.

You will be guided through some questions during the meditation, and you are invited to jot down your thoughts as you go along. We begin by entering into a movement of interior silence. I invite you to close your eyes and sit with your back straight, feet flat on the floor, hands placed gently in your lap, if you can. This is a posture of attentiveness, of waiting in expectation, of responding to God's invitation to intimacy.

I now invite you to take three deep breaths, to find the rhythm of your breathing. As we begin, I invite you to focus on your in-breath and on your out-breath, becoming aware of your breathing in and breathing out. This is a practice that brings us into the present moment, where God dwells. We will take 60 seconds to practice becoming aware of our breathing. [Set a timer for 60 seconds]

As your awareness of your in-breath and out-breath begins to come into focus, we invite the Holy Spirit to be our guide:

*Holy Spirit, we invite you to be present to us, to open the eyes and ears of our heart, as we listen attentively to what the Lord wants to reveal to us during this time of prayer.*

## VISIO

Observe: A "reading" of the painting and scripture. Read each comment or question slowly, allowing at least 10-20 seconds between each one. Follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

I now invite you to open your eyes and gaze at the image before you. Allow your eyes to rest gently on the image. [Let them sweep the whole of the picture.]

Notice the shapes and the colours. Notice the lines and the details. Look for symbols. Notice if there is a place on the image where your eye is invited to linger. Are you called back again and again to a certain detail or colour? Try not to think about it too much. Simply notice where your energy is drawn.

Let us now close our eyes to listen to the Gospel story as if hearing it for the first time.

Read the scripture passage reverently, or ask one or more of the participants to proclaim the text very slowly (to promote internalization).

Now I invite you to open your eyes and look at the image again. [Allow a moment 60 seconds, of silence before continuing...]

Which part inspires you? Where do you experience resistance? What questions arise within you...?

## MEDITATIO

Meditate: Pondering its meaning. Read each comment or question slowly, allowing at least 10-20 seconds between each one. Follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Notice the posture of the characters... Notice the hands and eyes of the characters... Notice how the artist considers the abundant catch of fish... Can you recall your own call to discipleship... is there a specific moment or was it a gradual call?

## ORATIO

Pray responding with commitment and fidelity. Read each comment or question slowly, allowing at least 10-20 seconds between each one. Follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Take a second longer look. Imagine you are there with Jesus listening to him... Can you hear him speak directly to you... Hear Jesus calling you by name... Does he ask something of you? As you reflect on the image, what feelings or longings are evoked? Let go of judging or critiquing... How can you provide a space or place for Jesus to teach others? Simply linger here, opening your heart to whatever Jesus desires for you.

## CONTEMPLATIO

Words are incapable of conveying all facets of our intimate experience with God. Let us take advantage of the last movement of our meditation to remain motionless before Him by letting ourselves be carried away in the net of His Love.

We will spend the next 3 minutes in silence resting in the presence of God, allowing us to gather the fruits of this seeing, you will be invited to share any insights, images, thoughts or words that have arisen in you during this experience of listening and seeing with the ears and eyes of our heart.

Invite participants to share in small groups of not more than four people. Depending on the time allotted for sharing, instruct each participant to share the time equally.

The scriptures tell us that when two or three are gathered together in his name, he is there among them. Let us take advantage of this moment to address our prayers to him. Does the artist's image remind you of an experience or person in your network? Offer a prayer of thanks or petition for this person or in connection with your experience. Has your meditation transformed your gaze? Offer this prayer to God.

## Final Prayer

*Your Word, Lord, is a two-edged sword. Teach us to answer your call, like Peter and his companions, despite our seemingly unsuccessful efforts that might lead us to discouragement and to give up when we may be so close to the goal you want us to achieve: abundant fishing. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.*

The production of these files is made possible by donations from people who use them in their own communities. Please invite them to support this project by sending a cheque to the Société expo-bible du Québec or by making an online donation on our website. *A tax receipt will be issued for all donations of \$25 or more.*

Société expo-bible du Québec  
117, avenue Labrie  
Laval (Québec) H7N 3G1

Editors : Lucie J. McElligott and Sylvain Campeau