

Deacon Joseph DeLuca

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 10, 2019

Luke 5 :1-11

I don't have to tell you that parents and children don't always see eye to eye .That is a huge understatement. And much of this arises from differences in regard to what the child or young adult should be allowed to do or not to do. It starts very early in a child's life, when parents take objects out of the hands of their children so they don't choke or harm themselves. And eventually moves on to various rules regarding bedtime, eating one's dinner before getting desert, and not crossing the street without an adult.

By adolescence, teenage years these disagreements can reach a fever pitch, with parents deciding who their son or daughter can hang around with or date, setting well defined curfews, making and enforcing strict rules about not drinking and doing drugs, and all the other stuff that go with each parent's attempt to keep his or her children healthy, responsible, and safe. Of course in many cases, these rules are met with great opposition. No one really likes someone else telling them what they can or cannot do. And I don't think that young people push back just for the sake of pushing back. No I don't think that's not the primary motive at all,

I actually think it is much simpler. My guess is that, in many of those moments then sons and daughters are fighting with their parents, it is because they are convinced of something which to them is obvious, convinced of these three small words actually.

I know better

I know better. Many of us think it from time to time, and even say it occasionally when we are in some kind of disagreement or argument. Sadly, a few of us probably think it nearly all of the time. **I know better.** In one sense, it's not an unreasonable statement. Many times we are right, we do know better. And trying to convince someone else of that, A co-workers, a spouse, a friends, hopefully this just an attempt to achieve the best outcome, the one that is the most logical or helpful or reasonable or most effective

But what about with God? Do we sometimes act as if we know better? That might be a little bit of what's going on in today's Gospel. You know the story. Simon and some other fisherman had been working all night, but had come up empty handed. Jesus tells them to row out into deep water and try again. Simon Peter says to Jesus. **Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing.** WE get it right? He is tired. He has worked hard. This is his livelihood, and therefore he knows what he is doing. And he knows that they hadn't caught anything up to

that point, they have been fishing all night and one more try was sure to bring about the same results.

Jesus ---I know better

This story could have gone one of two ways. Simon Peter could have stopped right there and walked away, maybe drawing some reprimand or harsh words from the mouth of Jesus.

But it didn't unfold that way, because Simon said one additional thing, took one additional step, considered one more possibility. After making his initial point, Simon tells Jesus, **“But at your command I will lower my nets ”** And that made all the difference in the world. Peter stepped out in faith and chose to do **not what** he wanted to do, but what **Jesus** wanted him to do. HE listened to someone he trusted, someone he believed might know better.

And his instincts were right. He caught more fish than he ever had before. Had he chosen his way, the outcome would have been much different. But he chose Jesus' way, and something wonderful happened. The reason that children and young adults should listen to their parents is because they do know better. They are wise and more experienced about the things of the world. Children might think they know better, but in the vast majority of cases they really don't. They can't always see the bigger picture, don't necessarily understand the potential consequences of their actions. Parents have a better handle on that.

In many ways that is a decent analogy in regards to our relationship with God. We can't know the things God knows. We can't understand the things he understands. So the only thing that makes any sense, the only thing that will keep us safe spiritually, is to acknowledge our limits and weaknesses and consequently choose to align our actions with what we believe God is asking of us, **thereby changing our attitude and actions from I know better too God knows better. Faith is not about everything turning out Ok, No! it's about being Ok no matter how things turn out.**

So my brothers and Sisters: Is God calling out to you to proclaim his work and word, to gain more knowledge about your faith, to be a light for others to see. Is he asking you to join and become a member of a small faith group, to get out of your comfort area, to become a better Christian, a better member of his faith community, an engaging partner with Jesus, changing the world, one step at a time. Jesus Knows better our potential, than we think we do.

So let us be like Peter.

Peter's willingness to cast his nets at Jesus' command is a manifestation of a profound insight, some would say, the most authentically faithful prayer, one we pray all the time “Thy Will Be Done.” Saying those words, taking them to heart and acting on them is the best, smartest, most faithful thing we could ever do. WE might be surprised at the miracles that take place within us

And there's only one way to be confident that we indeed are doing that, when we truly allow God's will to become ours. So let's love each other as God loves us. We might just be surprised at the miraculous outcome God has in store for us