

Pastor's ramblings - January 2012

"I am going out to fish, Simon told them..."

John 21:2a NIV

What do you do when you are frustrated, seeking, searching, depressed? Some may head for the mountains, the mall, or the seashore. Some may head to a quiet place while others seek out a crowd to get lost in. In many ways we all go to what is or what was meaningful or familiar to us. Simon (Peter) and the disciples go fishing. Peter was a fisherman before being called by Christ. Now Christ is gone. Peter and the disciples had not anticipated the events of the past days even though Jesus had told them. They were unsure of what their future holds. So, they go fishing. They go to what was familiar. Peter knows how to cast and bring in the nets. Maybe it is in dark of night on the sea that Peter finds peace. This may be where he reflects on the events of the day. Whatever the reason, Peter goes fishing and the rest of the disciples go with him. Might as well be doing something. Waiting is hard.

As we continue to read the events in John 21 we discover they fished all night and caught nothing. A voice from the shore asks them how things are going. Not good. "Well, have you tried the right side (the other side of the boat)?" Does this seem strange? What difference does one side of the boat make? I remember a fishing trip with two friends. I was the only one who caught any fish. The next year we went again and again I was the only one who caught any fish. One of my companions later lamented, "And, I even put you on the other side of the boat this year!"

For whatever reason they listened to the voice from the shore. One more time they cast the nets on the right side (other side) of the boat and they have a catch so large that they are unable to bring the net into the boat. Peter now recognizes the voice from the shore who is on the shore giving directions, "*It is the Lord!*" (21:7b). He may have remembered another night of fishing when he caught nothing. In the morning Jesus had asked to borrow the boat to preach and then had him try one more time -- another miraculous catch.

If we are not catching fish are we using the wrong side of the boat? Where is the right side, the other side of the boat today? This is what I want to explore during the month of January. Where is God leading us in 2012? Do we need to change to the other side of the boat? If so, where is the other side? I hope you will join us for worship this January as we examine together where God may be leading us -- as we ask, "Where is the other side of the boat?"

Sermons for January 2012

January 1 - Communion/Worship
Psalm 148; Luke 2:22-40
Ancient Traditions

January 8
Exodus 19:14-27; Luke 5:1-11
Preparing for Another Day

January 15
Psalm 127; Luke 5:1-11
Yet, if You say so...

January 22
Psalm 62; John 21:1-14
Gone Fishing

January 29
Psalm 42; John 21:1-14
Where Is the Other Side of the Boat?