

## Ordinary 5C 2022

### The abundance miracle:

The miraculous catch of fish is a miracle of abundance and resembles other "abundance" miracles — such as the sending of manna to Israel in the wilderness (Ex 16); the widow's never-empty meal jar and oil jug (1 Kgs 17:8-16); the extension of a one-day supply of oil for the lamps to light them for the full eight-days of the Temple's rededication ceremony (2 Kgs 4:1-7); and Elisha's feeding of a hundred men with twenty loaves of bread (2 Kgs 4:42-44). Later in this same Gospel, we will see Jesus feeding five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish (9:12-17). The Gospel of John reports another abundance miracle, the wine (160-180 gallons!) Jesus supplied at the wedding in Cana (John 2:1-11). All these "abundance" miracles have two common characteristics: (1) they meet human needs and (2) they demonstrate God's power. The spiritual outcome of this particular miracle was that the disciples, "*left everything and followed [Jesus]*" (v. 11).

### Little Transmitters

In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe "Pioneer 10." Its main mission was to reach Jupiter and send back information about that planet. It was a bold plan because at that time no satellite had gone beyond Mars. Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and so much more. It swung past Jupiter in November, 1973, then passed Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. By 1997, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun. Despite that immense distance, Pioneer 10 continued to beam back radio signals to earth. The most remarkable thing was that those signals were powered by an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light. Not even the most optimistic scientist could have ever imagined what that little 8-watt transmitter could do. So it is when you and I offer ourselves to God in faithful obedience. It's just incredible what God can do through little 8-watt transmitters like me and you, when we're turned on for him. (by Bill Bouknight from *Collected Sermons*, [www.eSermons.com](http://www.eSermons.com))

### Call answered as a continuous process:

There is a story about a sophomore who worked in the library at Princeton, New Jersey to earn money to help with his education. One night about closing time, he was walking around the empty halls of the library when he noticed in the very back corner amid an old stack of books, an old man reading and taking notes furiously. The old man was very intent. The librarian became a little curious, so he went back to the old man and said, "My, what are you studying so intently?" The old man looked up long enough to say, "Well, I'm a student of physics." The young librarian said, "Well, last year I took a course in physics, and I think I have all I need for an understanding of physics." He then turned and walked back to his desk. You can imagine his chagrin a few minutes later when the old man checked out some books, and on his library-card was the name Albert Einstein. — God's call is a calling to a process, not to a single task. Today's Scripture readings about the calls of Isaiah, Peter, and Paul remind us that our calling is to a lifelong process of obedience, service, and surrender to God in which we grow daily more like Jesus. There is nothing in the world more joyful than that. There is nothing in the world more challenging. (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)L/22

### **"But the fog is not on the maps."**

Several years ago, two land surveyors were sent from a large city in Wales to survey the mountains in North Wales. For a week, they stayed in an isolated cabin in shepherd country. Every day they went out with maps, compasses, and charts checking the countryside and the valleys.

Several days into the first week, an old shepherd came up to them and said, "Might be best if I go with you tomorrow." They said, "No, there's no need for that. We have our maps and charts. We'll be fine. We have everything we need." The old shepherd said again, "It might be best if I went with you tomorrow." "No, we have our maps and charts. We know these hills just like you. We'll be okay."

And the old shepherd said, "You may have your maps, but the fog is not on the maps.- There come times in our lives when all the charts, maps, and other resources are insufficient. There come times when we can only do God's work in His power and in His strength. It is an awesome, humbling, and revealing experience to stand before the Miracle Worker as He reaches out and calls us. (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)L/22

### **He can transform our weaknesses:**

There was a king who owned a large perfectly cut diamond. He was very proud of it and made it the national symbol. Unfortunately, the diamond one day got damaged and its beauty was marred by a long hair-like scratch. Its splendor was gone and its sparkle diminished. The king was very saddened. He gathered all the reputed jewelers for consultation. They all said that it had lost its splendor and value. In desperation the king sent our word throughout his kingdom, "Anyone who could repair the damaged diamond would be suitably rewarded." Finally, just when the king was about to give up the hope of restoring the stone, a poor lapidary gem engraver came forward to restore it. "Sir" he said to the king, "this same scratch which has diminished the diamond's worth will become its most beautiful asset." The king entrusted the man with the stone and many weeks passed before his return.

Finally, when the lapidary opened his velvet box to display his craftsmanship, the king gasped in amazement. There was the stone -more beautiful than ever, with a beautiful rose carved on it. Only the king could detect that on the rose's graceful stem was the scratch that had once so ruined the diamond. — Jesus is the master jeweler, who can transform the scratches, which dim and distort our lives into something that could shine and scintillate. (*John Rose in John's Sunday Homilies; quoted by Fr. Botelho*). (<https://frtonyshomilies.com/>)L/22