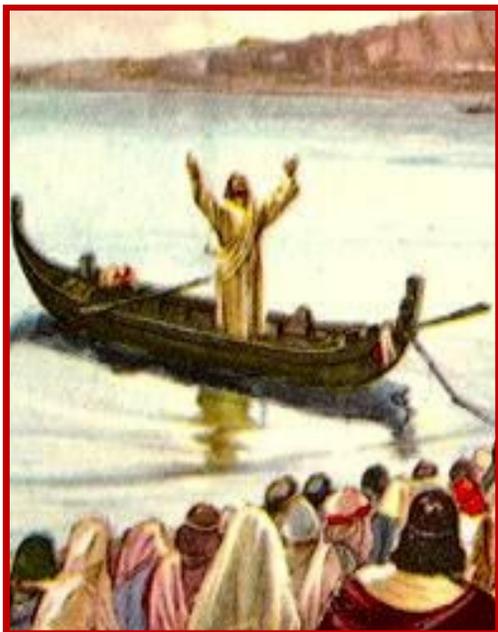


Church. This ship as it sails across this present time keeps safe from harm all it carries within it. In the Old Testament all whom Noah took with him in the Ark were saved in the shipwreck of the world, so when the world shall be destroyed by fire the Church of Peter will keep safe within her all whom she cherishes as her own. When the Flood had ceased, a dove carried a token of peace to the Ark, when the judgment is over Christ will bring to the Church of Peter the joy of peace...



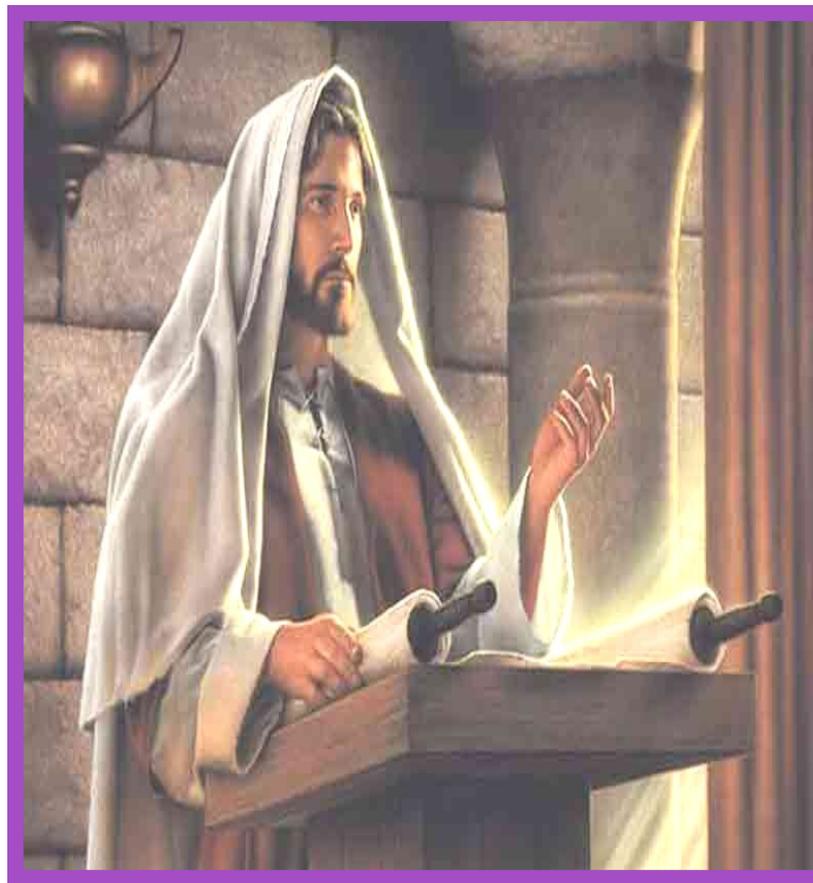
In this same little ship the Lord makes known the mysteries of His heavenly doctrine... Where Peter alone sails there is calm; where Judas is added to the company there is storm... By the sin of Judas, all the Apostles were placed in danger, let us by this warning be on guard against the faithless and traitors lest through one put many in danger of the waves...

Where faith is pure, there the Savior teaches, watches and rejoices. There is rest, peace and healing for all men...



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**SERMON ON
THE TWO SHIPS
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH
163 - 2**



JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version

Volume 2 - Pages 1554 - 1555 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of Luke 5: 1-11

by: Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor

...Because Jesus could not on land be apart from the people, seeing two ships upon the sea he hastens to go into one of them, that which belonged to Peter. The reverence that was due a Teacher was far from restraining the people. From the little ship He begins to speak to men the words of His Teaching. Separated in Body from men, He is united to them in the profit of His teaching. He is compassionate, everywhere helping us. On the land He heals the infirmities of their bodies, by His touch; on the sea he heals the wounds of the soul, by His teaching.

It is this little ship of Simon Peter which the Lord judged the more suitable of the two to teach from. It keeps the Savior safe from injury and it is from where he bestows His words on men of faith. We have learned that the Lord sailed in another ship, and was provoked by many injuries. He sailed with Moses in the Red Sea, when He carried the people of Israel through the midst of the waves. He suffered many affronts, as He Himself says in the Gospel to the Jews: *If you did believe Moses, you would believe me also* (Jn. v. 46). The faithlessness of the Synagogue is an insult to the Savior. He chose the bark of Peter and deserted that of Moses. He rejected the faithless Synagogue and adopts the believing Church.

There are as it were two ships which were destined by God, which were to fish in this world, as in the sea, for the salvation of men, as the Lord said to His Apostles: *Come, and*

I will make you to be fishers of men (Mt. iv. 19). Of these two ships one is left at the land, idle and empty; the other, laden or filled, is launched upon the deep. The Synagogue is left idle on the beach; because of its own fault it has lost Christ together with the warnings of the prophets. But the frightened Church is taken out into the deep, because it received the Lord together with the teaching of the Apostles. The Synagogue remains by the land holding fast as it were to earthly things. The Church is called forth to the deep to search into the profound mysteries of heaven. Into that deep of which the Apostle says: *O the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God* (Romans xi. 33).

For this end it is said to Peter, *Launch out into the deep*; that is, into the deep of teaching the Divine Generation. What is so profound as that which Peter says to the Lord: *Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God?* What so earthly as that which the Jews said of the Lord: *Is not this the Son of Joseph the carpenter?* (Lk. iv. 22). The one inspired with wisdom from on high confesses the divine birth of Christ; these others, with minds like vipers, speak carnally of the Heavenly-Born. The Savior says to Peter: *Because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my Father who is in heaven.* To the Pharisees He says: *O Generation of vipers, how can you speak good things, whereas you are evil?* (Mt. xii. 34).

The Lord Jesus goes up only into the bark of the Church of which Peter is the appointed master, the Lord saying to him: *Upon this rock I will build my*