

## A WEEKLY WORD

February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Epiphany 5

Lois Drover

**READINGS:** Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

In the first reading we see Isaiah the Prophet being called by God for a mission. In Verse 8 *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"*

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Paul is talking about Jesus appearing to many after the Resurrection, then in Verse 8 he refers to his call to serve. *"Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me."*

In the Gospel from Luke, Peter is told by Jesus in verse 10 *Do not be afraid; from now on you will be fishing for people."*

The 3 readings appointed for today show us that we can be called anywhere, anytime, and for any purpose. The question is how will we respond? You might say, "well, that was Isaiah, Paul and Peter, they were equipped and ready to go." Not necessarily.

Isaiah was not a highly educated man. He was a simple man He was the son of Amoz, not a king or famous man. He prophesied during the reign of 4 kings of Israel, starting with a message of doom and gloom about the destruction of Jerusalem, but ending his ministry with a message of hope of a Messiah and restoration.

Paul was highly educated, a Jewish scholar, a Pharisee who upheld the law of Moses. He was sent to destroy the early church and was present and gave approval at the stoning of Stephen. He persecuted the church for years before he was struck blind on the road to Damascus and called by Jesus to preach the Gospel of Christ to the Gentiles.

Peter was a fisherman, taught in the temple as a child but his adult life was devoted to eking out a living fishing to provide for his family.

All three would not be at the top of the list today to evangelize and lead the church. Jesus calls the weak and the lowly and equips them to bring his message of hope to a hopeless world. He calls the persecutor, the uneducated, and the prophets to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. He is calling you to do your part. All you have to do is say "Here I am" and he will train you up and equip you to do what he asks of you. He may

ask you to go to the mission field, or down the street to bring a meal to a sick friend. He won't ask more of you than you can give, whether time, talent, or treasure. Open the ears of your heart today and say to Him, **Here I Am, Send Me!**

*Here I Am Lord*

*Is it I Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night*

*I will go Lord*

*Where you lead me*

*I will hold your people in my heart*