

# Making Space for God

## Opening Prayer

Lord, you know what is best for me.

Give me what you will and when you will and as much as you will.

Do with me what you think best and as it please you and brings you the most honor.

Place me where you will and use me according to your wisdom.

I am in your hand as your servant ready to do all that you command.

I want to live not for myself, but for you. I want to serve you fittingly and perfectly.

*Thomas a Kempis*

**Arrival**- Take some times to settle yourself. Invite the Lord to guide and direct your thoughts for the day. Think back over where you have been in the last eight weeks. What burdens, emotions, and concerns do you carry? What are you thankful for? When have you experienced the Lord's presence? Journal your thoughts and offer these to the Lord.

## Scripture Study - The Boat Passages

Boats were a familiar place for the disciples and it is not an accident that the Lord often met them on boats and around water. Select one of the following passages to focus your prayers. Picture yourself in the boat, use your senses, listen to the dialogue and then enter the dialogue. Where is the place that is familiar to you? Go there in your mind and heart and Jesus will be waiting for you there.

Luke 5: 1-11- Call to Ministry Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16-20

Luke 8:22-25- Calms the Storms Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41

Matthew 14:22-34- Walking on Water Mark 6:45-56,

John 6:16-21

John 21:1-25- Recommissioned

**Exercise and Rest**- Take some time to walk around and enjoy the Lord's creation. It is his gift to you today.

## Reading for Reflection

God's answer to Moses, "I am who I am," might be paraphrased as: "I am the one who cannot be captured in thought, imagination, or feeling; the one who can never be controlled or manipulated; but who, despite



*The Great Catch, Acrylic on Paper by Steven Stuckey*

but who, despite

this and because of it, is ever graciously and powerfully present to you. *Trust that presence, walk in it, undergo it.*”

*Ronald Rolheiser in The Shattered Lantern, page 133*

It takes considerable humility to embrace this mystery, for in the presence of mystery we are not in a position to control anything, to predict or manage, to pose as authorities, to as we say, “master the subject.” But it does leave much room for worship, for there is no worship where there is no mystery.

*Eugene Peterson in The Unnecessary Pastor, page 69*

You are sent into a world full of tortured, twisted, overdriven souls:...How are you going to show these souls, who need it so dreadfully, the joy and delightfulness of God and surrender to God, unless you have it yourselves? But that means giving time, patience and effort to such a special discipline and cultivation of your attention as artists must give if they are to enter deeply into the reality and joy of natural loveliness and impart it in their work.

*Evelyn Underhill, Concerning the Inner Life, Page 20*

We all have glimpses of glory as children, and as we grow up we forget them or are taught to think we made them up; They couldn't possibly have been real because to most of us who are grown up, reality is like radium and can be borne only in very small quantities.

*Madeleine L'Engle in Walking on Water, Page 69*

Stories are able to help us to become more whole, to become Named. And Naming is one of the impulses behind all art; to give a name to the cosmos we see despite all the chaos. God asked Adam to name all the animals, which was asking Adam to help in the creation of their wholeness. When we name each other, we are sharing in the joy and privilege of incarnation, and all great works of art are icons of Naming.

*Madeleine L'Engle in Walking on Water, Page 45*

In times of prosperity, spirituality stagnates. It is only in the context of the harrowing experiences of deconstruction that forward movement is initiated... We do not find God when the going is good. The sense of well-being that is generated by positive experience makes us somewhat self-sufficient. At least it tends to limit our horizons to the range of possibilities available to us in the present world. We become insensitive to other-worldly realities. We forget God.

*Michael Casey in Living in the Truth, page 61*

## *The Blessing*

Friends, as you go on your way, may Jesus go with you:

Before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, above you to watch over you, below you to uphold you, within in you to give you his peace, and beside you to be your Friend.

In the faithful love of the Father, the amazing grace of the Son and the guiding power of the Spirit.

Yes! Yes! Yes! Amen

*Celtic Blessing*