

# Sink or Swim

by Fr. Jim

When we try to make sense of our life, what do we do? Most people tell a story. They choose certain events then arrange them in a way that brings a sense of coherence. Not only do we choose which events to include, we also choose how to interpret them.

For instance, a person might share the memory of learning to swim by being thrown into the water by his father. For this person, that memory is connected to his becoming a successful business person who is not afraid of taking risks.

But another fellow might use a similar experience to explain their fear of water and their lack of trust in authority figures.

And this is how we tell our stories. We choose certain events and give them a certain kind of spin.

How does this compare to the way the Bible tells God's Story? Does God our Father hurl us into the deep end of the pool then yell: "Good luck, kid! Sink or swim! You're on your own!"

Better yet, when beginning his ministry, does Jesus, the Son of God, walk out onto a fishing dock, start an argument with some fishermen then push them into the water?

No. Of course not! Rather, in the story of the Gospel, the Son of God approaches the fishermen and, with abundant respect and solicitude, then invites them to join him on his mission to save the world.

"Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

This episode is the opening line in the Story of God.

"Come, follow me, and I will make you into the person you long to be, the person I created you to be! Come, follow me into a story of meaning and purpose, courage, strength, and valor; a story of love-beyond-imagining and virtue-beyond-compare."

"Come, follow me! If you dare!"

Follow me into the Greatest Story ever Lived! The Story of Redemption. The Story of Life Itself. My Life. My Divine Life. Hidden within yours!