



Second Sunday of the Year- B
January 17, 2021
John 1:35-42

Background on the Gospel:

As we begin “Ordinary Time” each year of the cycle we have a Gospel passage from John. Today’s passage is John’s version of the calling of the first disciples; the only one named is Andrew (brother of Simon Peter). At the word of John the Baptist that Jesus is the “Lamb of God,” Andrew and the other (unnamed) disciple start following Jesus. Jesus inquires regarding the reason they

wish to follow Him. They ask where He “stays” and He invites them to “come and see.” In John’s Gospel these words have deeper meaning: to “stay” is a permanent commitment. “Come and see” means growing in faith.

Notice a “chain reaction” here: John the Baptist points out Jesus as “the Lamb of God” and they leave John to follow Jesus. After spending a day with Jesus, Andrew brings his brother Peter to Jesus. In John – unlike the other Gospels – Jesus looks at Simon and immediately gives Him his “new” name, Peter; Peter and Jesus are beginning a new intimacy.

Thoughts for prayer and reflection:

- 1) The first words spoken by Jesus in John’s Gospel occur as Jesus turns to Andrew and the unnamed disciple and asks them “*What are you looking for?*” This is the key to John’s Gospel; the question comes up again in the garden as Jesus is being arrested and in the resurrection as He meets Mary Magdalene: “*Who are you looking for?*” We have to purify our desire. Consider Jesus asking you right now: What are you looking for?
- 2) Jesus turns and looks at the two disciples as He speaks to them; He also looked at Simon and named him Peter. The gaze of Jesus is important here and accompanies the question; it is a look of intense love: God contemplates us! Let Jesus “examine” you in the depth of your soul. Feel His love purifying and clarifying your intentions and desires.
- 3) Theologically, we could say Jesus is asking the “would be” disciples to listen to their innermost desires and sort them out, moving beyond fascination and attraction to a deep commitment. Where are you in your following of Jesus – dabbling or going deeper?