

Liturgy of the Word Reflection

Romans 10: 9-18; Psalm 19: 8-11; Matthew 4: 18-22

Nov. 30, 2020

Yesterday, the first Sunday of Advent, we were told to be watchful, to be alert, to be awake. In Advent we focus on the reality of God's presence in the here and now, even as we look forward to the celebration of God's coming in history in the incarnation of Jesus.

Today is the feast of St. Andrew. Andrew was awake, as was his brother, Peter. When they saw Jesus and heard him say to them, "Come after me and I will make you fishers of people," their immediate response was to leave everything and go with Jesus.

We wonder what there was about Jesus that caught their attention and attracted them to him enough that they would leave everything behind.

They leave behind their security, their means of livelihood, the familiar, their family and follow Jesus in complete trust, unaware of where he is going, where he will lead them, or what will happen to them. What is important is not just the external act of following, but their inner attitude of wakefulness and openness to hear the invitation.

This Gospel invites me to think about at least three questions.

First, is there anything individually or as a community we need to leave behind in order to follow Jesus more wholeheartedly? Do we have any attachments to attitudes, biases, preferences, comfort zones, cultural values, political points of view, that we would find hard to let go of in order to be more like Jesus in our relationships?

Second, like Andrew and Peter, am I open to God's coming in surprising new ways in the ordinary? I've been thinking about the ordinary a lot these days. Sometimes it seems so insignificant. And yet if I believe that God is present in the here and now, then isn't "the ordinary" more than good enough?

If our ordinary, is to be in this building and only able to go out for doctor's appointments, not having a lot of social interaction or whatever the "ordinariness" of our lives involves, **it is good enough**. If we have minds and hearts awake and open, then **we can** experience God's presence and hear the call of God in these very situations.

Third, following Jesus always involves being sent out to bring good news. So, where we are is where we are invited to bring that good news, which may be as simple as a smile or a pleasant hello. Or as Edward Hayes says in *The Gospel of Gabriel*, "simply be the mirror in which others can see themselves as God sees them." That would really be bringing good news, wouldn't it? So today, may you and I go forth in the ordinariness of our lives to BE that good news for one another ... "to be the mirror in which others see themselves as God sees them."