

Reflection

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Nov. 30, 2022,

Rom. 10: 9-18;

Mt. 4: 18-22; ps. 19: 8-11

In the preaching rotation, I frequently end up with one of the Gospel's about the call of the disciples. Today is Matthew's version but we are hearing it in the context of Advent so I wondered if there might be a new twist I hadn't noticed.

Advent is sometimes called the season of waiting and yet the Gospel today is about urgency and immediate response...no waiting here. The disciples are invited to follow Jesus and they do so, apparently, without a second thought.

Granted, Jesus' personality must have been compelling but something more had to be going on **in them** to make them follow without having a clue about what that would mean.

Elizabeth Kubler-Ross writes: "How do geese know when to fly to the sun? Who tells them the seasons? How do we, humans, know when it is time to move on? As with the migrant birds, so surely with us, there is a voice within, if only we would listen to it, that tells us so certainly when to go forth into the unknown."

From the perspective of Advent's call to be vigilant, we could say those fishermen heard and listened to that voice within calling them to go forth into the unknown.

In some way they were prepared and awake for God's coming. They were willing to listen to that inner voice and leave their past behind and not worry about the future. To paraphrase Fr. Gillet, "they began without thinking about the future of the work."

So, how will we listen to the voice within us this Advent, as they did? Will our hearts be so open that we can find God calling us in the daily events of our lives, right here, right now, in the present moment? Will we be open to go with God into an unknown future like the first disciples and our founders did? Will we be open to any urgency in God's call, personally and as a community?

If we are to be open enough to listen to that inner voice we must:

BE STILL: so "the noise of our minds doesn't overpower the whispers of our heart" Elder Bednar in The spirit of Revelation; so, we can hear the cries of those around us.

BE AWAKE: so, we can receive God entering our lives, in situations and people who would be furthest from our expectations of where God is to be found.

BE WILLING TO BE SURPRISED and so surrender to the possibility that God's plans may not be what we had in mind.

May these spiritual disciplines enable us to be ready, awake and prepared for the coming of God into our lives this Advent. Like the first disciples, may we, too, hear and follow God's call wholeheartedly and immediately without worrying about the future.