

Commentary on the Gospel for Sat, Nov 30th 2013

This is my first contribution and I am humbled to be a part of the wonderful community of faith that this ministry represents.

The Gospel reading is one that is familiar to us as Jesus calls fisherman Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him and become fishers of men. While Christ calls to all, Saint Matthew describes this special call to these men who were given to him by the Father. When we quiet ourselves and listen to the call of Jesus do we accept that we are chosen by the Father to respond to Christ's loving invitation. What can we learn from these simple fisherman who were called out to be a fulcrum to change the world? Can we accept that Jesus gives gifts to us; puts treasure into earthen vessels to carry out his work in the Kingdom?

On the surface, it may be easy to see ourselves heading Christ's call. Yet we must understand that this call costs our comfort and can challenge our priorities, even the priority of family. "He called them, and immediately they left their father and followed him" (MT 4:22). As parents, sons and daughters, sisters and brothers our initial reaction may be one of conflict with the example of James and John leaving their father. And while we have critical responsibilities to our families, we must come to terms that God calls us to be his servants and we are not our own. Whether our calling is urgent and immediate, or the slow work of the spirit over years in faith we are called to be faithful to his call and in faith trust even this potential conflict with our familial instincts. Comforting and inspiring are Paul's words to the Romans: "No one who believes in Him will be put to shame" (ROM 10:11). "How can anyone preach unless they are sent. How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news" (ROM 10:15).

And the psalmist reminds us the words of the Lord "are more precious than gold."

Let us open our hearts to the calling of Christ today.

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