

January 18, 2025

Daily Reflections



YOU ARE CALLED

By Elisabeth Beall

From Today's Gospel

*“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.
I did not come to call the righteous but sinners.”*

MARK 2:17

Reflection

You may have heard the saying before: “The church is not a museum for saints; it’s a hospital for sinners.” (Sometimes it’s described as not a hotel for saints, or not a harbor for saints – but the meaning remains the same.)

It’s a lovely reminder: we don’t need to perform a particular number of good deeds, we don’t need to achieve a certain level of purity, we don’t need to attend this many religious services or refrain from taking the Lord’s name in vain so many times.

We're good enough. Right now, wherever we are, *however* we are, we are welcome into the house of God. God has invited us to enter; and God waits for us there (not only there, of course!).

This verse from today's Gospel is more to-the-point and powerful even than that reassuring, pithy saying about a hospital for sinners. First, Jesus says that he came precisely for us sinners. His mission is to heal us.

Then he kicks it up a notch. Not only did he come to heal us – he came to *call* us. Us sinners. We are the people he wants to follow him – right now, wherever we are, however we are.

God sent Jesus to lead us, to guide us, to heal us, to prepare us. Now, in this new year, is the perfect time to ask yourself: am I allowing Jesus to guide me, to heal me, to prepare me? Do I really believe that, with all my faults, with plenty of sins under my belt, God can really love me that much?

Sit with these questions and listen for God's quiet voice to respond: *I do. I do love you that much.*



Statue of Christ the Redeemer - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Photo by Daniel Olivier

For Pondering

- How does it make you feel to know that, whatever sins you repent, Jesus came to call *you*?
 - Do you believe that your faith community is a hospital for sinners? How does your faith community help to heal you?
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For Prayer

*Merciful God,
We turn to you in our weakness.
We turn to you in our fear and anxiety.
We turn to you in our anger and sinfulness.
And we turn to you in absolute trust,
For you alone are our hope.
Amen.*

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