

January 21, 2024



THE INVITATION

By Julie Mussché

Today's Gospel

*After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
"This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

*As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.
Jesus said to them,
"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.
He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.*

So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

MARK 1:14-20

Reflection

As a teenager, I was enamored with John's Gospel, so full of mystery and intricate narrative. As I have grown older, Mark and Matthew have caught my fancy. Mark in particular gives me pause with his "just the facts ma'am" style. In today's reading, Jesus is beginning his ministry in Galilee, preaching the Good News. The chronicle has moved very quickly from his baptism, to his temptation in the wilderness, to this point in the Gospel. Ready to do his Father's work, he begins with haste. Along the way, he encounters Simon Peter and Andrew, then James and John, and Jesus extends an invitation to all of them to come follow him as his disciples.

What compelled the four men to suddenly drop everything and follow Jesus? Can you imagine? They probably had no idea what they were getting into, but they knew it was the right thing to do. Their families must have been astounded; this was literally a life-and-death decision when it came to subsistence and basic survival.

Perhaps this is a perfect example of what it means to act with blind faith. Even as men of God, to drop everything and follow a stranger and risk the welfare of loved ones is extraordinarily inspired and implies a confidence that all will be well in the hands of God. For Christians, the invitation is to follow Jesus. Certainly, the response to do so is unique to each person. Where and how do you find the invitation to be a disciple of Jesus?



"Raphael's Miraculous Draft Fishes (ca)" is marked with CCo 1.0. To view the terms, visit <https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/?ref=openverse>.

For Pondering

Has there ever been an occasion where you have taken a leap of faith in responding to the call of Jesus? The invitation: savor the memory of that sacred "yes." What emerges for you -- images, feelings, people, places or other sacred artifacts? How does remembering energize your spirit?

For Prayer

*To You, O Love, I lift up my soul!
O Heart within my heart,
in You I place my trust.
let me not feel unworthy;
let not fear rule over me.
Yes! May all who open their hearts savor You
and bless the earth!*

Compel me to know your ways, O Love;

*Instruct me upon your paths.
Lead me in your truth,
and teach me
for through You will I know
wholeness;
I shall reflect your Light
both day and night.*

*I know of your mercy, Blessed One,
and of your unconditional Love;
You have been with me
from the beginning.
Forgive the many times I have walked
away from You
choosing to follow my own will.
I seek your guidance, once again,
I yearn to know your Peace.
Companion me as I open to your Will!*

PSALMS FOR PRAYING BY NAN C. MERRILL
10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

Support CSD



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



[Visit Website](#)

714-744-3172

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org