

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

ENCOUNTERS AT THE LAKE

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Today's Gospel

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

MATTHEW 4:18-22

Reflection

As we read today's selection from Matthew, we see Jesus, walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, calling two sets of brothers to leave their fishing

business to follow him. “At once they left ... immediately they left” We can wonder how did this happen, that they left everything in this brief encounter? Had they seen him before? Perhaps one day, when Simon and Andrew were repairing their wooden boat, Jesus stopped by to give them a hand with the roughly hewn lumber and his own stone tools. Maybe they came to know him in the synagogue in Capernaum or the town gathering place ... somehow, when Jesus extended the personal invitation to come with him, they were drawn to follow him and to leave everything. I can imagine that their encounters with Jesus had been grace-filled and the fishermen had begun to trust him, a fellow laborer who knew hard work.

What was the dynamism in Jesus that captivated them so powerfully? How did James and John abruptly leave their father, Zebedee, sitting in their boat and follow Jesus on the road? What did Jesus mean when he said, “I will make you fishers of men”? Questions didn’t stop them ... these first four disciples only wanted to be with Jesus and to learn from him.



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For Pondering

The story of Jesus calling the first disciples appears in each of the four Gospels,

with slight variations, which indicates the importance of Jesus' invitation to draw others to be with him as companions in accomplishing his mission. Throughout the centuries, Christ extends an invitation to follow him in various ways: for some it may be to give direct service to the poor; for others, the call may be to spread the Good News or to extend Jesus' healing ministry or to work for reconciliation among people. The invitation may come through hearing the Word of God being proclaimed in a liturgical celebration or by witnessing someone lay down his/her life for another. A person might be spending a quiet time savoring the beauties of God's creation and receive the call to care Mother Earth, God's handiwork.

- What is God's dream for you?
- Do you remember a time when you experienced God's invitation to you? What was it like?

For Prayer

The One, who is your teacher, will hide no longer, and you will see your teacher with your own eyes. Whether you turn right or left, your ears will hear these words behind you, "This is the way, follow it."

ISAIAH 30:20-21

On the following day as John stood there again with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God." Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned around, saw them following and said, "What do you want?" They answered, "Rabbi," - which means Teacher - "where do you live?" "Come and see," he replied, so they went and saw where he lived and stayed with him for the rest of the day. It was about the tenth hour. (4 pm) One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter.

JOHN 1:35-39

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