

**1. Read (Seek)** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate (Find)** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage. **God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray (Ask)** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate (Taste)** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence. **How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

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Link to Liturgy**



[1] Jn. 1:36

[2] Psalm 80 (Thursday, Morning Prayer; Week II)

[3] John 14:9

[4] NAB Mt. 1:39 footnotes

[5] Jn. 1:41

# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? John 1:35-42** — Pg. 1

**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3

**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## **Gospel Reading – John 1:35-42 – Roman Missal**

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" - which translated means "Teacher" -, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother, Simon, and told him, "We have found the Messiah." - which is translated "Christ" -. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" - which is translated Peter.

## **Spiritual Reading**

*From a homily on the Gospel of John by Saint John Chrysostom, bishop*

After Andrew had stayed with Jesus and had learned much from him, he did not keep this treasure to himself, but hastened to share it with his brother. Notice what Andrew said to him: We have found the Messiah, that is to say, the Christ. Notice how his words reveal what he has learned in so short a time. They show the power of the master who has convinced them of this truth. They reveal the zeal and concern of men preoccupied with this question from the very beginning. Andrew's words reveal a soul waiting with the utmost longing for the coming of the Messiah, looking forward to his appearing from heaven, rejoicing when he does appear, and hastening to announce so great an event to others. To support one another in the things of the spirit is the true sign of good will between brothers, of loving kinship and sincere affection. Notice, too, how, even from the beginning, Peter is docile and receptive in spirit. He hastens to Jesus without delay. He brought him to Jesus, says the evangelist. But Peter must not be condemned for his readiness to accept Andrew's word without much weighing of it. It is probable that his brother had given him, and many others, a careful account of the event; the evangelists, in the interest of brevity, regularly summarize a lengthy narrative. Saint John does not say that Peter believed immediately, but that he brought him to Jesus. Andrew was to hand him over to Jesus, to learn everything from himself. There was also another disciple present, and he hastened with them for the same

reason. When John the Baptist said, this is the Lamb, and he baptizes in the Spirit, he left the deeper understanding of these things to be received from Christ. All the more so would Andrew act in the same way, since he did not think himself able to give a complete explanation. He brought his brother to the very source of light, and Peter was so joyful and eager that he would not delay even for a moment.

### **Staying with the Lord - Lesson and Discussion**

*“Where are you staying?”*

In the Gospel reading, Andrew asks our Lord a simple question, “Where are you staying?” Jesus answers him by allowing Andrew to come with Him. When Andrew heard John the Baptist say “Behold, the Lamb of God”[1] he began to follow Jesus from a distance. **How many of us follow Jesus but only from a distance, not willing to come closer to Him?** What happens when we follow a person from a distance? Many times we talk about stalkers or maybe we have seen a detective movie in which an agent is following a person, in both cases the person following does not want to be seen by who they are following. Do we follow Jesus from a distance because we are curious and we really don’t want Him to see our thoughts, actions, words, etc.? There is a safety in following from a distance, but there is not an intimacy. Throughout salvation history, God has called His people to intimacy. Psalm 95, the invitatory prayer, prayed each day in the Church, says, “Today, listen to the voice of the Lord: Do not grow stubborn, as your father’s did in the wilderness, when at Meriba and Massah they challenged me and provoked me, although they had seen all of my works.” From a distance we can “see God’s works” but from a distance we cannot “hear His voice”. When we want to hear someone we might ask him or her to come closer. God is asking us to not follow from a distance but to come closer. From a distance we can see a shadow of the person, or maybe their body and limbs but we cannot see their face. The face is a sign of intimacy; to be so close to a person that you can be face to face is intimate. When people explain that they have met a famous person they usually say how close they were to the person, maybe 10 feet. If they were very close they might say that they spoke “face to face” with that person.

God wants to be face to face with His people. “God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. Men have burnt it with fire and destroyed it. May they perish at the frown of your face. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.”[2] God not only looks down from heaven but also comes down from heaven. Jesus brings us back so that we can see the face of God and that the face of God will shine on us. When we have an intimate relationship with Jesus, we see the face of God, for Jesus says,

“whoever has seen me has seen the Father...”[3] It is only when we see the face of God that we can “perish at the frown of your face” and be saved when His face shines on us. In any relationship, we are upset when we see a frown on the face of the one we love, especially if our actions or words cause the frown. We then in sincere sorry, repent of what we have done and make amends. In the same way we experience great joy when the face of the one we love “shines” on us. If we are not close we see no facial expression at all and are left in the “unknown”. We do not know where we stand in the relationship and in fact could question whether we have the relationship at all.

Jesus turns to them and asks a simple question of what are they looking for. In His heart, Jesus already knew the answer, but He wanted to give them the opportunity to ask it for themselves. Jesus is asking the exact same question to us, **“What are you looking for?”**

**Why does Jesus allow them to come with Him?** In a historical sense, the time of day was literally the tenth hour, from sunrise, in the Roman calculation of time, and some suggest that the next day, beginning at sunset, would have been the Sabbath.[4] They would have stayed there because nobody traveled on the Sabbath. In a theological sense, Jesus allows anyone and everyone to follow Him. He invites us to take time out of our day and stay with Him as long as we can. We can be so distracted by everything in the world that we fail to recognize Christ and to be with Him. When we do, Jesus calls us close to Him to be with Him as long as possible in order for us to truly understand and know that Jesus Christ is King. If we recognize this we too can go out and seek others to follow Jesus as well.

**What did Jesus and Andrew talk about through the night?** The scriptures do not tell us, but what we do know is just after one night, Andrew fully believed that Jesus was the Messiah. We know this because he goes after his brother, Simon, to tell him “We have found the Messiah.”[5] A conversation with Jesus changes lives. We see this throughout the Gospel. The woman at the well and the two disciples on the road to Emmaus have the same time of conversation with Jesus, resulting in a conversion in which the individual is inspired to evangelize, to tell others about Jesus.