

2021 January 17

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Reading:

First: 1 Samuel 3.3b-10, 19, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." (9b)

The Psalm: 40, "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." (3)

Second: 1 Corinthians 6.12-20, "Your body is a temple of Holy Spirit within you." (19a)

The Gospel: John 1.35-42, "We have found the Messiah." (41)

God continues calling

We are in the period of Epiphany. That is, God's Christ continues to manifest himself to the world, to the Gentiles. Manifestation or revelation of God to the Israelites was for a limited period of time in order to raise a people from whom the Messiah had to be born. Once he assumed humanity from that people, he is God of all peoples of the world and he needs to be manifested, revealed to all. He continues to do it, and until his second coming the world and its people will continue to be in the period of Epiphany.

Samuel was one of the prophets called and anointed by God to prepare the people of Israel for Christ. In choosing every servant God has a unique method. We find a few such methods in today's readings, the call of Samuel and that of John, Andrew, and Peter. In the same sequence we find also Nathaniel, who might be the one named Bartholomew among the disciples. In the psalm of the day we find a beautiful response and outpouring of the heart in the joy of being chosen and called by God for his work. In that expression of gratitude and joy of being chosen a new song flows from the heart of the one chosen. God fills the hearts of his chosen ones with new songs of praise.

Gratitude and response of the chosen ones do not stop at the new song. The new song is the expression and personal response of being intimately connected to the caller, the Almighty God. We find such songs of praise and jubilation all through the Old and New Testament books. They are there in the stories of Moses, Daniel, David, Solomon, Isaiah, Jeremiah, our Blessed Mother Mary, St. Paul and many others. The response to God's call does not and should not remain confined to praise and thanksgiving. It has to be responded to through action and work for the One who called, working out or fulfilling the purpose of the call. Among the disciples and followers we find beautiful examples of such action and purpose-driven lives. Andrew and Philip bring their sibling and friend to Jesus. Look at what they say to persuade their buddies to take them to Jesus, "*We have found the Messiah.*" (John 141)

Who could be the one that revealed to Andrew and Philip so fast that Jesus was the Messiah? No an answer in the gospels. We who are familiar with God's way of working must know it. St. Paul indirectly answers that question, "*Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you?*" (1 Corinthians 6.15) We have John the Baptist pointing at Jesus exclaiming, "*Here goes the Lamb of God!*" (John 1.36) These are the ways the manifestation of God happens in the world and we are privileged to be called and commissioned to make that epiphany happen in our world and in our time, here and now. Does our hearts burst out with a new song, and a shout, "*I have seen the Messiah, come and see?*" Each of us who believe in him should have the courage and insight to show, to point out at Jesus.

(The readings of the day are given at the beginning. The numbers in parentheses refer to the quotes from them. Good to go through the readings beforehand to properly understand the Reflections)

