

Second Sunday - Year B

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19; 1 Cor 6:13-15, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42

Why are we here sitting in church today? What possessed us to come to Mass at a time when we are dispensed from Sunday obligation until Ash Wednesday (February 17), a month from now?

Christmas is over. The tree, ornaments and crib are gone. We celebrated the Epiphany of the Lord and met the adult Jesus at His Baptism. Today there is no holy day of obligation or feast day scheduled, yet here we are.

Why? What are we looking for?

In today's Gospel, Jesus asked the two disciples of John the Baptist,

“What are you looking for?”

I suppose there are more reasons why we come to Mass and what we are here for.

Perhaps some of us were brought up as Catholics, the practice of going to Mass every Sunday was instilled into us as a habit by our parents.

Perhaps, some of us were baptized soon after birth before we knew what was happening.

Perhaps, others of us chose to become Catholics when we were older and decided, after years of research, study and prayers, to become followers of Jesus.

But that is still not enough. It might be a lot better than nothing, but it is far from enough to answer the question why we follow Jesus. What are we looking for?

Maybe we think we don't have any time to discover the answer to that question. Our time is already filled up with anxiety and overcrowded with trying to make some money in this time of economic hardship to live on with family obligations.

Bills have to be paid, problems need taking care of, food must be on the table, infection and health worry us every day. And if, or rather when all of this is over, what will our answer be?

And so, back to the question Jesus asked the two disciples,

“What are you looking for?”

I think we might all agree that basically we are looking for happiness — for love, for fulfillment, for friendship, for peace and security. But whether we realize it or not, I think we want this happiness not just for 80 or 90 or even 100 years. We want it forever.

As to what will give us happiness, we all might differ in our opinions. The two disciples, one of them was Andrew, Peter’s brother, thought Jesus would have the answer to that question. They wanted to talk to him.

And so they asked, **“Rabbi, where do you stay?”**

“Come and see,” Jesus answered.

After they spent some time with Jesus, Andrew seems to have become convinced that Jesus was the Messiah, the one who was supposed to be the answer to the happiness question. Andrew went and told his brother Simon Peter,

“We have found the Messiah?”

Yes, the Jewish people looked and prayed for the Messiah. They sought happiness like the rest of us, like everyone always is. And they believed that happiness would be brought to them by the Promised One, the Anointed of the Lord, the Christ.

Were they right in thinking that? Or were they following another dream that would never come true? The Messiah did finally come. Some of them recognized and believed in him.

But did he bring happiness? Probably not the kind they were looking for. Seems like he brought a lot of hardship and suffering - to himself, and to those who followed him.

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

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True happiness can only be acquired through some kind of contributing ourselves to something that will benefit others. As Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "A life not lived for others is not a life."

That is why Jesus came to earth to live, suffer, die and rise to life for us. And He wants us to not only live for ourselves but for others as He did. He also wants us to help them find happiness with God forever in heaven.

And so, dear friends, if we are looking for things that are not of God, we won't experience life with all the meaning and purpose and hope and possibility that God intends.

If we are looking for the God who will give us everything we want . . . we won't find Him.

If we are looking for the God who will place no expectations or demands on us . . . we won't find Him.

If we are looking for the God who will take away all of our problems, challenges, pain, sickness or struggles . . . we won't find Him.

But if we really want to find God, the happiness and fulfillment in life, both in the here-and-now and the hereafter, then sincerely ask Jesus,

"Where are you staying."

He will tell us, **"Come and see."**