

Sunday, January 14th, 2018

Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 65

Reading 1: 1 Sm. 3:3B-10, 19

Responsorial Psalm: Ps. 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

Reading II: 1 Cor. 6:13C-15A, 17-20

Alleluia: Jn. 1:41, 17B

Gospel: Jn. 1:35-42

I remember when I was a boy, my father liked to have all kinds of fruit trees in the garden. We planted them, we watered them, and we took care of them very well to be able to enjoy their fruits. But not all the trees bore fruit; there were some that did not grow, the reason for that was that those trees did not belong to the environment where we planted them. And life is like that, in today's readings we hear how God plants the seed of his word in Samuel and then Jesus plants the seed of his word in the heart of his disciples. Today's readings speak to us of the vocation in which we must bear fruit.

When I was a teenager, I never asked myself what God wanted from me. I had my own plans and he was not in them. But God always comes to meet us at the time we least expect. For the young Samuel that moment was while he was sleeping, when Samuel listened to the voice of God he believed that it was the

priest Eli who called him. His reaction was to discover what Eli wanted; neither Samuel nor Eli knew that it was God who was the one calling. Until the third time that God spoke; Samuel goes with Eli, Eli reacts and tells Samuel to answer.

It is at this moment that Samuel receives the mission from God to be a prophet. God chooses him to represent him before his people; we can say that Samuel's mother planted him like a small tree in the temple in Eli's care so that he would bear fruit in abundance.

It is interesting the parallelism that exists between the first reading and the Gospel of John. The disciples of John the Baptist upon hearing the voice of Jesus are amazed at his wisdom and goodness. They immediately leave what was known to them and embark on a new adventure, an unknown adventure full of mystery. Saint Augustine tells us in one of his reflections that, "To seek him is the greatest adventure, to find him, the greatest human achievement." That is why the disciples of John asked Jesus a question that would give them a clue to follow him, "Where are you staying."

In ancient Greece, the way to learn from a teacher was to live and to accompany him for some time. The students saw the behavior of their teacher and listened to his teachings in order for them to grow. This is precisely what Jesus does with his disciples,

he calls them and invites them to live with him, “Come and see” so that they may be able to see and hear the teachings he had for them and through them for all of us.

Once God calls us to serve him either in marriage, in consecrated life or as a single person committed to the Church, our life should not be monotonous, boring, or the same as before. We should not follow the example of the world and its teachings. Saint Paul in the letter to the Corinthians tells us that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we should not engage in worldly things that denigrate our humanity in any way, on the contrary, we should be agents of grace for others just like Andrew, who after encountering Jesus committed himself to point others to him.

Three questions that will help us reflect in our personal life could be:

What am I looking for in my Christian life?

What are my purposes and my goals?

How is the Lord present in my life?

Some people seek in faith things that faith cannot offer. There are people who come looking for personal security, others seek to make a career: to be well regarded, recognized and admired... There are those who want to find in the faith some kind of peace,

but do not dare to fight with themselves. The worst battles a person can fight are the wars he or she has to fight against themselves.

The disciples of John call Jesus “Rabbi” which means literally in Hebrew “My big one.” It is the title of respect that students and seekers of knowledge gave to their teachers and scholars. Our world is full of great people who want to dignify the human being with their life and work, but let us never forget that only one is our authentic Master.

The person who wants to be a disciple of Jesus will not be satisfied with a passing word, but will want to have a personal encounter with Him.

There are people who hear about Jesus, talk about Jesus and talk with Jesus, but perhaps they have not experienced in the depth of their hearts the strength of that encounter, hence they are still weak with a wavering heart... The only encounter that can transform the life of a human being is the true encounter with Jesus, hence the disciples of John stayed with him as soon as they found him.

The Gospel makes reference to the gaze of Jesus; a look that goes to the bottom of life, to the heart. Jesus does not only see what the person is in the moment, but also what he can become. He sees in each human being not only what there is in the present, but

everything he can become if he accepts to meet with Him and follow Him.