

## May We Be “Here I Am” People

So much of our life journey may be like Samuel in our first reading since our birth we are given the call ..... but we often mistake as Samuel does who the call is coming from. We may see the call not from God but from another person or another cause. We see the extreme division in our world and country by those who follow ideology of right and left rather than the Blessed Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We tie into the earthly when we are being called to eternity. Saint Paul in our second reading tells us everything, including our bodies are not our own but to be used as temples of the Holy Spirit ... there is a saying that we need to be careful how we live because we may be the only Bible someone reads. I read a story recently about a woman who in all honesty said she would never put one of those silver fish symbols on her car ..... Because what if she was caught speeding or not merging into traffic gracefully what

would people think of Christianity or at least the Christianity that she professes. We can all probably relate to that in some form or other.

Everything in our readings today tells us we are not to be a people in retreat ..... but a here I am Lord, your servant is listening people.

In some sense today's readings have us reflect on what is called the call, within the call. Once we accept Christ as Savior there is no real turning back .... As the saying goes, we can run but we can't hide. But what are we to do with it? What are we called to?

Our biggest role as Christians is not what or how many things, we do but how many have been shown Christ by what we do. How many have seen the Word of God through our imperfect way and struggles.

Our Gospel reading gives us that image very clearly in Andrew. The Baptist points out Jesus as the Lamb of God and Andrew and one other disciple go to question Him. Once convinced that Jesus is the Messiah ..... he does not keep it to himself but first goes to his brother. So much can be reflected on here our first duty is to evangelize our family. But take a moment to picture the scene in your mind of Andrew taking Simon to Jesus. And immediately Jesus gives Simon the name Peter. Those of you acquainted with Ignatius Exercises know that it is rooted in imaging yourself in a Gospel scene. This moment fits so well to that type of reflection. How would we feel as Andrew? Would we rejoice for Peter? Or would we sulk and say to ourselves, ..... "Are you kidding me I found Him first and He didn't give me a new name." But yet Andrew did the higher purpose he brought a soul to Christ a soul that would in earthly terms surpass him ..... but, in the end, they have both found eternity.

It is so hard for us to get out of the way and allow The Spirit to shine forth. One thing we learn very quickly as we age is that energy wanes, the thought process is not always so quick there is no way we can keep up the pace of our youth. But if we reflect on it there is a beauty of stopping and focusing on what we can do.

How much energy and such was wasted in youth because we wanted to do everything. When we were young we rushed around afraid of missing out on something ..... now we nap because we learned most of this life is not worth losing sleep over anyway. We sort of learn to seek out the true treasure.

May we all by the Holy Spirit be shown our true call throughout our earthly life and may we always be a Here I Am Lord people.