



Daily Reflection

November 30, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 4: 18-22

As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel reading gives us the call of the first Apostles. At the time that Jesus approached them they were experienced fishermen. Fishing back then was a lucrative business. But notice...they drop their nets immediately and follow Him...no meeting, no discernment retreat, no consultation with trusted advisors. Their response was immediate, faith-filled and done with complete trust. Wow! On Sunday we enter the Holy season of Advent which is a time to change what needs to be changed, to clear out and clean up so that we can be open and free to receive our coming King. Is it possible to hear His

voice calling us to drop what we are doing to make a place for Him, especially with so much shopping to do and parties to attend? Yes, it is if we ask Him for His Grace to help us do so. He wants nothing more than to be close to our hearts.

Food for your Journey

When Christ called Peter and Andrew to come after him, he interrupted their routines and disrupted their careers. For them, to follow meant leaving everything behind in order to physically accompany him for 3 years. As far as they knew, it was a call that would endure the rest of their lives — and that is exactly what happened.

One thing stood between them and following. It symbolized their choice of maintaining the status quo or living a life of unconditional following. It was their nets. If they were to follow him, they would have to drop their nets. Continuing to cling to the nets and all they represented — security, income, familiar commodities — meant a denial of the call in their lives

Followers are netless believers.

—Joseph M. Stowell, *Following Christ* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996), 135-36. Used by permission.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Please give me the Grace to be open to Your voice which calls me in the midst of a noisy world to follow You. When I have heard Your call in the past it seems I had so many distractions crowding out Your voice. Give me Peace and make me still. Move my heart to respond to You with love. Amen