



Daily Reflections

January 17, 2021

Scripture

John 1:35-42

The next day again John stood, and two of his disciples.

And beholding Jesus walking, he saith: Behold the Lamb of God.

And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus.

And Jesus turning, and seeing them following him, saith to them: What seek you? Who said to him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?

He saith to them: Come and see. They came, and saw where he abode, and they stayed with him that day: now it was about the tenth hour.

And Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who had heard of John, and followed him.

He findeth first his brother Simon, and saith to him: We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

And he brought him to Jesus. And Jesus looking upon him, said: Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is interpreted Peter.

Our Scripture Reflection

Note that these two are following, but it is Jesus who initiates the conversation. Jesus turns around and sees them. He asks what they want. They don't really answer His question, but suggest that they would like to talk further, so they ask where He is staying. I love Jesus' answer: "Come and see." He doesn't give them an address or make an appointment. He invites them to come along with Him and walk with Him. The primary meaning of "oida" is "to see," with the understanding that seeing corresponds with gaining comprehension, experience and perception.

This seems characteristic of Jesus today. He doesn't answer all our questions, but He invites us to journey along with Him. Following Him-- and in the process, learning from Him-- is the essence of what it means to be a disciple.

Food for your Journey

Those who've lived in small towns know there's a world of difference between a hometown newspaper and the big-city equivalent. Small-town papers face challenges in this digital era — they've had to up their game when it comes to web services — but those who have adapted are remarkably robust.

What passes for “all the news that's fit to print” in a rural area is very different from the news elsewhere. Check out the local news coverage, and you're likely to read something like this: “Alice and Frank McQueston are back home again, after spending four weeks in Florida ... Last Thursday night, the Murphys hosted two tables of bridge; a good time was had by all ... Richard Martin, son of Gloria and Ralph, is home on leave, after finishing Army basic training ... Dorothy and George Castle are hosting an out-of-town guest, Bertha Strunk, whom many will remember as a former resident of this community.”

You get the idea. It's pretty rustic. There's a village mentality. Who's up from Florida to visit isn't exactly the stuff headlines are made of, but it's news enough to keep the locals buying subscriptions.

In a highly developed area, it's hard to imagine a place as down-home as that. Yet it was in hamlets and villages where Jesus lived most of his days.

Parts of the first chapter of John sound like a village newspaper. Jesus has come down from Nazareth to visit his cousin, John, who's hard at work blasting sinners and baptizing anyone he can convince to follow him into the Jordan. Jesus and John haven't seen each other for a while, but John's clearly happy to welcome his out-of-town guest — so happy, in fact, that a couple of his followers ditch him and he hardly notices. They dash off to overtake Jesus on the road.

They ask Jesus where he's staying. That's the kind of thing folks are apt to ask in a small town. If you know where a guest is staying, you can tell an awful lot about that person.

Jesus' answer is indirect, and very small-town: “C'mon,” he says. “Come and see.”

Come they do. They follow Jesus back to the house where he's lodging. That afternoon the little group, rabbi and prospective students, sit and talk for many hours, all about the Scriptures and the love of God. After a meal, Andrew — one of that little group — goes off and finds his brother, Simon. “We have found the Messiah!” he declares, and he drags Simon back with him.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, There are so many voices out there in society calling for my attention, inviting, seducing, enticing me to “come and see”. But only Your voice will lead me to The Way, The Truth and The Life. Lord, please give me the Grace to follow only Your voice and protect me from everything having to do with the evil one. Amen