

Sunday, January 15, 2023 - Second Sunday of the Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

1 - The LORD called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

Jeremiah 1: 5 – "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

3 - He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

The concept of God's servant is a common theme in the book of Isaiah. Sometimes it seems to refer to the nation of Israel, sometimes to the faithful remnant in Israel. In its most focused form it is the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53 who bore our iniquities and carried our sorrows.

4 - But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity."

Have you ever felt inadequate to do what God wants you to do?

Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3-4 – "Suppose they do not believe me or listen to me?" "I have never been eloquent" "Please send someone else"

Jeremiah 1: 6 – "Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy"

5-6 - And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Do you have too small a view of what God wants you to do?

Psalm: Psalm 40:1-11

1 - I waited patiently upon the LORD.

He stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 - The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay,
and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.

3 - The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many shall see and stand in awe and put their trust in the LORD.

When have these verses described your experiences?

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The church in Corinth was a very divided and conflicted congregation, but it was also blessed and called by God.

1 - Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes

2 - To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

3 - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4-5, 7 - I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift.

8-9 - He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful.

Gospel: John 1:29-42

29 – The next day (John the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

Versus the teaching among some today that Jesus did not die for our sins.

35-39 - The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

Originally Andrew was a disciple/follower of John the Baptist. He must have been very intrigued with the preaching of John for him to have travelled south from the Sea of Galilee down to near the Dead Sea.

This might have been the first time that Andrew met Jesus. He wanted to know more about Jesus, so Jesus said, “Come and see.”

In next Sunday’s Gospel – in Matthew 4 – Andrew is back up north at the Sea of Galilee, where he again sees Jesus and Jesus says “Follow Me.” I do not believe that Jesus said “Follow Me” to Simon Peter and Andrew the first time they met him.

When did you first meet Jesus? When and how did you start learning more about Jesus? When did you start following Jesus?

Every church needs to have “Come and See” ministries and events as well as “Follow Me” ministries and events.

What are the “Come and See” ministries and events at your church? What are the “Follow Me” ministries and events?

40-41 - One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).

Andrew did not seem to have much of an identity of his own. He is pretty much always referred to as “Simon Peter’s brother.” But Andrew was always bringing someone to Jesus.

42 - He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

As with us, Jesus knows who and what we are. But He also knows who and what we can become – by His grace.

Significance of John’s translating Hebrew words such as “Rabbi,” “Messiah,” and “Cephas.”