

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel – Adapted from Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee preaching the good news of God, saying: “The time is here; the Kingdom of God is near. Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew throwing their nets in the sea. They were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

They immediately left their nets and followed him. He walked a little farther and saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee. They were in a boat fixing their nets. Jesus called them, so they left their father in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.



Reflection

Today we hear about Jesus calling some of the first Apostles – Peter, Andrew, James, and John. All four of these men were fishermen. They had spent their lives catching fish for food; now Jesus tells them that they can catch people for God. The incredible thing is what each of these men does when Jesus calls them. They left everything and followed Him, immediately. They had an encounter with Jesus, and it changed their lives, from that moment on. These fishermen knew about Jesus, but they did not really know who He was. But something about Him drew them. Their hearts were open to let Jesus in, and they found Him so irresistible, that they were willing to leave everything behind to follow Him. And they didn't need to weigh the pros and cons, or find out what other people thought about their decision; they did it immediately.

We have the blessing of knowing who Jesus is. We have received the Faith through our Baptism. And yet, we are often slower to respond to Him than these fishermen were. Jesus is calling us. We need to give Him everything, just like the fishermen did. And we need to do so without fear. If Jesus is calling us, we can be confident about where He will lead. We can follow Him immediately, and we don't have to be afraid.



Discussion Questions

What things are holding you back from following Jesus completely?

What is one thing you can do now, that you have been afraid of, to follow Jesus more completely?

Vocabulary

- **Apostles** – Jesus chose twelve of His followers to be Apostles. He chose the Apostles to lead His Church.
- **Faith** – The virtue that allows us to believe in God and everything He has told us.
- **Fishers of Men** – Jesus called His Apostles fishers of men because they would be the leaders of His Church. They would no longer be catching fish, but people for God.
- **Repent** – To repent means to turn away from sin. Jesus told people to turn away from sin, and follow Him.

Fill in the blanks

1 We know Jesus because we have the virtue of _____.

2 God still calls men to follow Him as priests and become _____.

3 Before we can follow Jesus completely, we must _____ of our sin.

4 In today's Gospel, Jesus is calling His first _____.

Quiz

1 What did the disciples in the Gospel do for a living?

- A** They were carpenters
- B** They were fishermen
- C** They were tax collectors
- D** They were soldiers

2 What did Jesus tell Simon and Andrew they would catch if they followed Him?

- A** Fish
- B** Alligators
- C** Money
- D** People

3 Who left their father in the boat to follow Jesus?

- A** Simon and Andrew
- B** James and John
- C** Martha and Mary
- D** Cain and Abel

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B H M C O O T B C M F J S A A
F E Q F Y N X Y F E O P P B Q
S P G Q N K Q O A X U J T H W
I K E G M J S D U T G R Y G A
R V J S U R J N E Q C V C U K
V E G Y E F V M A V L G A N Y
O Z P H W F D I S U F R D N J
Q I S E X A S G O B U Q W E W
M I K N N I V S S Y C O K G A
F Q B D G T K J H Q A L Q E C
S Z F Y H H V C F V K X J F D
I R V Z C O U N H O J N M W U
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APOSTLES

FAITH

FISHERS OF MEN

JAMES

JOHN

REPENT

Answers:

Fill in the blanks

- 1** Faith
- 2** Fishers of Men
- 3** Repent
- 4** Apostles

Quiz

- 1** B - They were fishermen
- 2** D - People
- 3** B - James and John



