

Commentary on the Readings for January 14, 2024

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

The theme for this Sunday's readings concerns God, or Jesus, speaking directly to us, and our response. Has God or Jesus ever spoken directly to you? He wants to because He loves you and love dies quickly in the human person if there is no dialogue or response. Let us see how this is illustrated in each of the Readings for this Sunday:

The **First Reading** is from the ***First Book of Samuel (3:3b-10, 19 [65b])***. Here we have the almost amusing story of God speaking, or calling, Samuel while he is yet a mere youth. Samuel hasn't had any experience in listening for God and so he thinks that it is Eli, his teacher, calling. Eli doesn't understand either until the third call, but then advises Samuel to respond with the now famous reply, *"Speak Lord, for your servant is listening."* Samuel became an important disciple.

The **Responsorial Psalm (40:2-10)**, is a beautiful meditation on the Eli-Samuel event above. It is something that each of us should do frequently; that is, to meditate on what the Lord God wants of us. Listening for His voice speaking to us and praying are necessary, but prayer should be a dialogue not a monologue.

The **Second Reading** is from the ***First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (6:13-20)***. This is a powerful teaching on the meaning of being a disciple of Christ. He says, *"...whoever is joined to the Lord Jesus becomes one in Spirit with Him."* From this, we learn that there is more to being a disciple of Christ than just going to church on Sunday. God wants more from you and is waiting for you to respond.

The **Gospel Reading** is from the ***Gospel of John (1:41-17b)***. Here we see a glimpse of the transfer of discipleship from John the Baptist to Jesus Christ. John encourages this and points to Jesus calling Him "the Lamb of God." Jesus then asks the two disciples **"What are you looking for?"** This is Jesus' open question to each of us. He will not force His way into our hearts, rather He want us to invite Him in. Here the disciples went to see where Jesus was staying and apparently never left Him.

As we said above, God wants to have a personal relationship with each of us. He does this through His Son, Jesus, who knows all of our human faults, failures and weaknesses. So, if Jesus were to ask you, **"What are you looking for?"** what would be your response? Something to think about during your prayer time this week!

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