

Peter and Andrew First Meet Jesus (2nd Sunday Ordinary Time, Year B)

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19—The Call of Samuel

1. Temple: Samuel was a consecrated priest/prophet
2. Theophany: an appearance of God
 - a. “Samuel! Samuel!”
 - b. “Here I am!”/ “Speak, LORD, for your servant hears/is listening”
3. Receptivity to God’s Word: Samuel “let none of his words fall to the ground” (3:19)

Psalm 40—Here I am, Lord; I Have come to Do Your Will

1. God desires obedience (“open ear”) rather than “sacrifice and offering” (40:6)
2. Obedience: “I delight to do your will, O God” (40:8)

1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20—Your Bodies are Members of Christ

1. The Body: “not for immorality (Greek *porneia*” but “for the Lord”) (6:13-15)
2. The Body as a “Temple” of the “Holy Spirit” (6:17-20)

John 1:35-42—Peter and Andrew first Meet Jesus

1. John the Baptist: also had “disciples” (Greek *mathētēs*) (1:35)
 - a. Anonymous “disciple” (=John?)
 - b. Andrew
2. John’s Message: “Behold the Lamb of God!” (John 1:35; cf. Exod 12; Isa 53:7-12)
3. Jesus’ First Question: “*What do you seek/looking for?*” (Greek *ti zēteite*) (1:38)
4. Disciples’ First Question: “Where are you staying?” (Greek *menō*)
5. Jesus’ Invitation: “Come and see” (1:39)
6. Simon Peter meets Jesus (John 1:40-42; cf. Mark 1:16-20)
 - a. Proclamation: “We have found the Messiah” (= Greek *Christos*)
 - b. Prophecy: “You shall be called Cephas” (Aramaic “rock”) (cf. Matt 16:13-18)

The Living Tradition: Jesus Renames Peter

Basil of Seleucia (5th cent. A.D.): Having recognized the prophet foretold by the prophets, Andrew led his brother to the one he had found. To Peter, who was still in ignorance, he revealed the treasure: “We have found the Messiah” for whom we were longing. *How many sleepless nights we spent beside the waters of the Jordan, and now we have found the one for whom we longed!...* (St. Basil of Seleucia, *Sermon 3-4*; trans. E. Barnecutt)

St. Augustine: Neither is there anything contradictory here to that other passage where Matthew tells us how the Lord said to Peter, “You are Peter, and on this rock will I build my church” (Matt 16:18). *But we are not to understand that that was the time when he first received this name.* We are rather to suppose that this took place on the occasion when it was said to him, as John mentions, “You shall be called Cephas...” (Augustine,

Harmony of the Gospels, 2.17.34; trans. in J. C. Elowsky, p. 81)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (2nd Sunday Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. What are some practical ways to develop the habit of “listening” to the Lord like the prophet Samuel? Notice when God spoke to Samuel: in the quiet of the night, and in the holy Temple. How might spending time in adoration or a prayer room help open our ears to the word of the Lord?

2. What kind of men were Peter and Andrew if they were already “disciples” of John the Baptist? How were they ready to encounter Jesus as Messiah?

3. What do you think of Jesus’ first words: “What are you looking for?” Take some time to pray and reflect on these words of Jesus, as addressed to *you*.

For Further Study

1. Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: Volume 1*. New York: Doubleday, 2007. An excellent discussion by Pope Benedict XVI on Jesus’ call of the Twelve disciples (pp. 169-182).