

5th Sunday OT (C)

February 10, 2017

Here I am—Send Me

Our scriptures this weekend feature three stories of people accepting God's call.

Isaiah recognizes that he is in the presence of the Divine as he hears the angels sing...the Hosannas... the Holy, Holy, Holy...and realizes that in his tradition one who looks on the face of God is destined to die. He realizes that he... as a sinful man... is unworthy to stand in God's presence as he says,

"Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips, living among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

After his lips were purified by the burning ember he heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" and he responded: "Here I am...send me!"

We hear the story of St Paul as he reveals that Jesus appeared to him. He says:

Last of all, he appeared to me.

For I am the least of the apostles, not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective.

Lastly we hear of Peter's call to become a fisher of men. Jesus uses Peter's boat to teach from... and then asks Peter to put out in the deep and lower the nets.

Peter's best professional judgement as an experienced fisherman probably kicks in and tells him we gave it our best shot last night and have caught nothing... maybe he thinks... this isn't the best time of day to catch fish... we're already tired and the guys on the boat will probably grip about another trip out so soon... but he cooperates and does what Jesus wishes.

The miraculous catch of fish helps Peter recognize who Jesus is... and he echoes what we have heard before... an objection... I am a sinful man... but he does what is asked of him... to the point of leaving all his valuable earthly possessions and his source of income and follows Jesus... to become that fisher of men.

So...what can we learn from the call of Isaiah, Paul, and Peter that will help us?

First we see that God always initiates the call...that there is a dialogue with God...that there is a genuine objection because of the realization of personal unworthiness... and that trust in what God says and action follows.

But you know that today is not really about Isaiah, Paul, and Peter...or a forensic examination of a biblical call narrative to stimulate your intellectual curiosity... as much as it is about you and me... and how we respond to Jesus Christ in our life.

A few weeks ago Jesus told us that his mission is to the outcasts and marginalized and to the sinful... and so... as he did...we are to do also.

So...let me suggest... if you are waiting for a call... you missed it...you have already been called because at your baptism you were called by name to join in the ministry of Jesus Christ...

If you haven't heard God... practice listening... quieting yourself in God's presence and listening... it's a skill that needs to be developed...

If you think you are in charge and self-sufficient...in genuine humility recognize your true dependence on God and trust and develop an attitude of gratitude since all good things you experience are pure gift from God...

Lastly... do something that God wants you to do... no matter how small. Take an action on God's behalf.

All these things taken together helps us respond when God calls out "Whom shall I send?" ...with... "Here I am-send me."

- ❖ Send me to my family and friends...
- ❖ Send me into my workplace and schools...
- ❖ Send me into the marketplace and the public arena...
- ❖ Send me into my Church...
- ❖ Send me Lord, for I have come to do your will.

At the end of Mass the Deacon says... Go in Peace Glorifying the Lord by your life...

Consider yourself...sent!

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