

The Choice to Follow Jesus!

Looking at today's readings, one can call it a vocation Sunday following the different descriptions of calls and invitations both in the 1st and the Gospel. This call and invitation are grounded in the freedom God has given us, which St. Paul describes in the 2nd reading. Our first reading tells the call of Elisha, an unusual type of vocation story. Most O.T prophets were directly called by God (Isaiah, Jeremiah, & Ezekiel), but on God's instruction, Elisha is summoned by Elijah, who he is to succeed. Elisha followed though he wanted to finish up some family issues.

Luke describes a couple of things about Jesus in today's Gospel. Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (all the synoptic has it that Jesus centered his ministry in Galilee and went to Jerusalem in the last part of his life), his rejection by the Samaritan Village, and his encounter with three prospective disciples. The first disciple wanted to follow him, but he reminded him of the challenges of following him. The 2nd and 3rd wished to follow him but had things to do; one had to bury his father while the other had to say farewell to his family.

These different calls we read in today's reading reflect different ways God calls us in different situations of our lives, a call to live in his love and share this love. How we respond to this call shows how we try to bring him into the picture of our choices. Do we behave in such a way that we are telling God to wait and that we will come back to him when we finish what we are doing? Is he telling us to be more patient, forgive, tolerate, or understand more? We pray that the good Lord opens our minds and hearts to recognize his voice and answer yes in different ways he calls us, especially in this new week. Amen.