

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
I Cor 7:29-31  
Mk 1:14-20

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Did you ever experience a time in life when your usual routine lost its appeal? Maybe it was in the discovery that doing certain things or living by a certain schedule was no longer satisfying. The very work you once found life-giving suddenly or slowly became burdensome. Tasks previously enjoyed somehow became tedious. Certain ways of praying that once fed your soul and spirit no longer seemed to do so. At these times, one begins to wonder: who am I and where am I going?

A period of discontentment or confusion, however, can be the prelude to something new and wonderful. In today's Gospel, we hear of the call of Andrew and Simon and James and John. What was it like for them to be called by Jesus? Was it a welcomed change from the routine of their daily lives as fisherman? The quickness of their response would seem to suggest they were ready for a change! Instead of carrying on the family tradition of fishing, these men could now imagine a different future. In saying yes to Jesus, one can only wonder what new things they would discover about themselves.

Today, St. Mark presents us with two important themes from his Gospel: The proclamation of the Kingdom of God and the invitation to discipleship. "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel". In these words, Jesus was telling us that in and through his person and works, the Kingdom of God was breaking into the world. Further, this proclamation calls forth a response from those open to receiving it.

What do the words of Jesus say to you and me? Like Andrew and Simon and James and John who left something behind to go with Jesus in search of something new, you and I are invited to do the same. What is the change of heart, attitude or mind to which you are being called? In today's Eucharist, we pray that God might awaken us from any routine that is stifling our spirit. May we accept the invitation to be created anew in Him.