

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th January 2021

'Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.' This is the psalmist's response to God's presence in his life.

'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.' This is Samuel's response to God's calling of him.

'Listen Lord, your servant is speaking.' This is all too often our response to God. Telling Him to listen rather than the other way around!

With the psalmist and Samuel there is a surrendering to the Lord, a surrendering to the fact that if God is at the centre of our lives. If we take ourselves less seriously then we are creating a space in our lives for Peace, a Peace the world cannot give, a Peace that only The Lord can give.

The psalmist and Samuel recognise that they cannot be the centre of all things ; totally self-important, self-opinionated , self-righteous ,self-indulgent and be at Peace at the same time, and be in relationship with the source of all Peace, God.

They are discovering that to surrender who they are and their lives to God – to the God who created them and knows them better than they do themselves– is to surrender to their true calling in life. To be a servant of God, as Samuel says, 'speak Lord, your servant is listening' ,is not to be a slave or someone enchained by God. And as Jesus tells us Himself in John's Gospel, we are to be His friends, a relationship even deeper than being a servant of God as in the Old Testament. As we heard last week, we are called to be caught up in the beauty of God for we are seen as God's beloved children: a child of God, yet again a relationship as deep if not deeper than being a friend.

Jesus extends this invitation to be with God and to rest in God to the disciples in our Gospel today. 'Come and see,' Jesus says to two of John's disciples. They, like Samuel, go to The Lord and rest awhile with Him: Samuel in the temple and the disciples in the house of Jesus.

This invitation to 'come and see' is offered a few times in the bible – we as friends of Jesus, and children of God, are called to respond to this call to intimacy with The Lord by surrendering ourselves to living in the house of God.

But first, John the Baptist by proclaiming 'Look, there is the lamb of God' reminds us that Jesus will eventually pay the ultimate price when He surrenders Himself on the Cross as the Lamb of God and the Lamb of Sacrifice – the ultimate act of filial love and friendship that can be offered . This is Jesus' response to our self-centred, 'Listen Lord, your servant is speaking,' -and He takes this invite up as quietly as a lamb – He does not shame or criticise our failings or sins but just quietly deals with them in a deep brotherly love of 'Yes' to you and me from the Cross.

So the invitation to 'come and see,' from Jesus today to the two disciples is very much an invitation to you and me– so are we going to spend the rest of the day with Jesus as they did or are we going to forget about Jesus in about 15 minutes?

In trying to create a bit more space and peace for others in our lives...

In trying to see the image of The Lamb of God with new eyes...

In trying to slow down a bit during this time of COVID and seeing and re-encountering Jesus as the Lamb of God and as the Word of God...

In reading the bible – The Word of God – more often...

...then we are responding to the invitation, 'Come and see,' for it is then that we are living and resting in the house of Jesus with Jesus and with his friends – our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ – the Children of God.

Like John the Baptist we have to point others to Jesus, we too as evangelists need to invite others to 'Come and see,' Jesus.

Who are we going to invite and how? A good way to do this is to invite people to look at Alpha Online on our webpage.

I look forward to hearing from you and them.