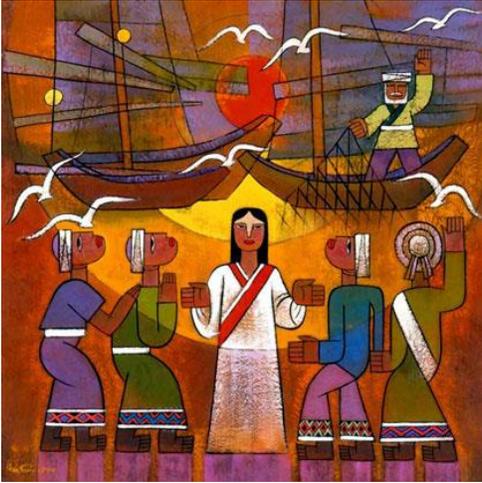




ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY January 14 & BEYOND

“Following Jesus is Good” (A Sunday reflection on John 1:43-51)



Isn't it quite amazing when other people absorb your actions into theirs? I don't mean your bad or wrong actions. No one will want to take any credit for your bad actions! Just your good ones, or if not “good” ones, the things you do that at the least assist them in some way. We hear about this kind of thing so often in business, or even in education circles. Actually, anywhere there are groups of people who have a common task at hand, and where there is a leader or smaller group leader, we hear this taking place. Its

quite simple – you have an idea, or you accomplished something, and rather than give you all the credit, that supervisor or group leader or boss simply absorbs that by telling others what THEY did. You may have had that happen to you. Or, back to the “bad” stuff, you got fired, or dismissed, or ignored without much allowance for mistakes!

Those moments, either way, “good” or “bad” things on your part, hurt your feelings. Now, we could talk about coping skills, not taking offense, “letting it go”, facing the reality of an unfair world, maintaining a strong self-identity (leading to personal confidence), knowing and setting personal social boundaries, establishing friendships and community networks, and more. But that's not where I'm headed on this one.

On Sunday morning, January 14, we are going to hear in Church a reading from the Gospel according to St. John, from the first chapter. Of course, you don't have to be in church to hear it or read it on your own (I invite you, however, to come to church so you can hear it while enjoying the company of others with the same purpose). In that reading, we will hear about a man named Philip, whom Jesus came to and said, “follow me.” And Philip did. Can we go back to my first thoughts for a moment? Often this same kind of scenario happens when we hear the voice or story or vision of someone that we want to work with or work for. In some fashion, we hear “come with me”, and so we sign up. So what happens in the rest of the story of Jesus and Philip is going to break that stereotype of poor leadership I started with. You see, Philip gets excited about who he believes Jesus says he is, and who he is going to be, that is, the Messiah, the Salvation, of Israel. So he goes and does some recruiting. In that part of the story

comes the difference. Nathaniel, Philip's recruit, has just had Jesus point out something about him that he couldn't possibly have known. And Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." He didn't say, "Yes, I know you, and always have." He brought Philip into the equation. He gave credit to Philip for doing the recruiting that brought about the face-to-face between Nate and Jesus.

This is the God we believe in. The One who knows us by name, the One who chooses to work with us, the One who values our devotion and work for His benefit; He does not dismiss us, and will never forget us. This is the One in whom to believe.

One more thing from what I started with at the beginning: the proof of God the Son's valuing and loving us is when what He knew to be our solution for eternal life was going to be carried out. We had to be redeemed – as in someone had to pay for us to be released from the captivity of doing bad things – and Jesus did this for us. In other words, when we did something bad or wrong God provided a way for us not to be dismissed or fired for ever. Thanks be to God.

There are two major reasons, why God gets it right, because that is God's plan and He is faithful to it and thus to us. We may continue having our difficulties here on earth (and we need to do what we can as we have the opportunity to identify such un-Godly behaviors), but we can be assured that the most helpful thing we can do is Follow Jesus, the Great Leader of all. It is good.

Father Rob Eaton, Interim Rector

CALENDAR

SUNDAY: First Sunday after Christmas

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY: 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

An Anglo-Catholic Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
www.allsaintschurch.org