



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B
January 17, 2021

1 Samuel 3:3b-10,19
Psalm 40:2,4, 7-8, 8-9, 10
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Assembly

(An unlit candle, a Bible opened to this week's gospel and a compass rest on a cloth-covered table in the meeting place.)

Beginning Prayer

(The candle is lit. Members are invited to silently focus on God's presence. After a short time of reflection, members alternate reading the following prayer aloud.)

- I: Here I am, Lord
 I patiently wait
 Hear my cry
 A song create
- II: No need for sacrifice
 A willing soul
 God asked for nothing
 I offered me whole

I: The written word
 Says do His will
 Heart delighted
 God's work fulfill

II: Your will be done
 By my own hand
 Your will be spoken
 Across the land

Based on Psalm 40:2,4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

LISTEN TO THE LORD

(After the gospel is read, the leader invites members to choose a few words from the gospel that touch them.)

The leader asks these two questions with a pause between them: “What does this gospel say to you?”, “How does this gospel affect you in your life?” The community silently reflects on these questions. The leader invites members to share their thoughts about the Insights and Reflection Questions for the week in a single group or within smaller groups.)

Insights

Each of the readings this week address the willingness of a person to allow God to lead them. When we are willing to let God be our leader we relinquish control to him, which can be a difficult thing for some of us. We can feel vulnerable and doubtful that God’s path will not lead us where we want to go. We may forget that God is in control, not us. Whether we want him to be or not, he is in charge. We can make it easy on ourselves and help him along by following his lead or we can make it hard on ourselves and be diverted from our plans by his gentle nudging. Our willingness to let him be our guide is up to us.

If we have ever had events happen in our lives that seem to block our path, we can be sure that it is because God doesn’t want us to move in that direction. It is up to us to be willing to allow God to move us in the direction he wants us to go. If we find ourselves continuously battling and getting frustrated over what we view as a failure, we can be sure there is a reason for it. If we decide to ignore God and try to do things our own way we may be in for a rough journey. If we think of our life like a boat on a river we

can paddle downstream along with the current or we can paddle against the current and strenuously work to get where we want to go. Like Samuel in the first reading and the disciples in this week's Gospel who followed Jesus, we can let God help us find where He wants us to be. When we are in doubt and don't know where else to turn because life is not working out the way we want it to, we can stop and listen for God to give us direction. When we do that we become a willing participant in the life that God wants us to live.

Reflection Questions

- ◆ Can you think of a time in your life when you gave up on something that wasn't working and discovered a better opportunity afterwards?
- ◆ Have you ever felt your desires for your life and God's were different?
- ◆ How easy or difficult is it to allow God to do his work in your life?

Suggestions for Action

- ◆ Let go of something that is not working. Let God steer your life.
- ◆ Spend 15 minutes before you start your day each morning and quietly listen to God.
- ◆ Offer to foster or mentor a young person who has no direction.

HEAR THE LORD

(After about fifteen minutes of sharing, the leader poses these questions: "How has the sharing from this session affected you?", "How will it change you this week?" The leader allows a moment for members to reflect before inviting them to share their thoughts. The leader reads a selection from the readings aloud. Following the reading, the leader poses these questions to the members: "What is Jesus saying to you?", "What is your response?" The community pauses to reflect on these questions. A brief instrumental selection may be played during this time. After a time of reflection, the leader invites members to share what they hear Christ saying to them.)

Closing Prayer

(The leader plays the song "I Am Willing To Submit To God's Work" found at www.insightsbooks.com. Click on the Music link and select the appropriate week. After the song is complete, several members alternate reading the following prayer aloud.)



Willing One

- I: Willing heart
 Willing ways
 God cares for us
 For all our days
- II: Give up control
 Let God decide
 Leave all to him
 Give up pride
- III: Bare your soul
 Be light and open
 Give up to God
 All that's broken

(Members exchange a sign of peace. The candle is extinguished.)