



# WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE B

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*He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —  
Then he brought him to Jesus. Jn 1:41*

In one short liturgical week, there is a rapid movement from the epiphany of the magi last Sunday to the public ministry of Jesus at the age of thirty this week. We hear from the Gospel of John his version of the call of the first disciples as Jesus undertakes the mission he accepted at his baptism. The first apostles echo Samuel's words from our first reading, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." (See Samuel 3:18)

Also, in our Gospel passage this week, John, unique among the evangelists, has the Baptist sending his disciples to follow Jesus. This was perhaps a hint to those who continued to follow the Baptist that they should join the early Christians and follow Jesus instead.

The next section links the encounter with Christ and coming to faith with sharing the faith. Andrew immediately goes to find his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus. Jesus gives Simon his nickname, "Rock," which in Greek is *Petras* and thus *Peter* in English. As Matthew links this name change to Peter's recognition of Jesus as Messiah, so John links it here to Andrew's statement of the same point.

This passage is not just a simple narrative. While you are reflecting on the story, keep in mind the significance of John's special words and phrases. The questions and answers are weighty and suggestive. Consider a way that opens your spiritual senses that there is more here than what first meets the ear. While the renaming of Simon ends more abruptly here than it does in Matthew's Gospel, give that verse the ecclesiastical significance it needs.

The dialogue between Jesus and the two disciples of the Baptist is filled with pregnant words. "What are you looking for?" is a profound question for seekers of faith and a question about life that every person must answer. In the disciples' answer, which is a question, the word "stay" or "abide" carries deep meanings, for it is the same word John uses for the *abiding relationship* between Jesus and the Father. Jesus' answer, "Come and see," combines two words that refer to faith in John. The disciples are to come to Jesus and learn to see with the eyes of faith. "So they went and saw" and *abided* with Jesus.

*Abide in Him, the light of grace will shine;  
In fellowship, all shadows will decline.  
Obey the light, His life in us will grow;  
From darkness freed, our heart will comfort know.  
by Charles B. J. Root*

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

John was standing with two of his disciples,  
and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said,  
"Behold, the Lamb of God."

The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.  
Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,  
*"What are you looking for?"*

They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —,  
"where are you staying?"

He said to them, *"Come, and you will see."*

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying,  
and they stayed with him that day.

It was about four in the afternoon.

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter,  
was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus.

He first found his own brother Simon and told him,  
"We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —.

Then he brought him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said,

*"You are Simon the son of John;  
you will be called Cephas"* — which is translated Peter.

***The Gospel of the Lord***