



## THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CYCLE B

Fr. David Rosenberg

Institute for Spiritual Direction

*Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17*

After describing Jesus' baptism and his temptations, Mark gives us a summary of Jesus' preaching and describes the call of the first disciples. He first notes the arrest of John the Baptist, which clearly positions John as the forerunner of Jesus and foreshadows what will happen to Jesus himself.

The first part of Jesus' message focuses on the end of one age and the beginning of the Kingdom of God. It was common belief at the time that God would put an end to the age of sin and strife and replace it with the Kingdom. Jesus announces that the time for this has arrived. Thus he calls for repentance and for belief in the good news that he is announcing.

The call of the disciples is so familiar to us that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples' response. Like the response of the Ninevites to Jonah, the response of these fishermen is immediate and complete. They leave everything and follow him. The first pair of brothers leaves behind their nets, their business and their security. *"Then they abandoned their nets and followed him."* The second pair leaves behind their father and coworkers. Mark is reminding us that following Jesus means letting go of possessions and letting go of family ties.

As we reflect on this passage this week, place yourself, in Holy Imagination, in the center of the story of the call and imagine hearing it as if for the first time. If you are amazed by the disciples' response, feel joy in the wonder and awe of the moment. Then reflect on your own call. Was your response a similar transformational moment when Jesus called you? Sometimes in our journey of the Pilgrims Way of the Cross, we need to be reanimated in Christ. Lectio Divina, as we hear and reflect today, may lead to joy in our remembrance of the disciples in Jesus' time, as well as our own story. In small group, with family and friends, we should take the time to remember our own story, and the story of those close to us. Let us turn our focus to the abiding presence of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as we live, and move, and have our being in Him, who is the true source of the fulfillment of all desire.

*Proclaim to the nations: "God is king."  
The world he made firm in its place;  
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.  
Psalm 96*

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

After John had been arrested,  
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
*"This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,  
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;  
they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them,  
*"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.  
He walked along a little farther  
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.  
They too were in a boat mending their nets.  
Then he called them.

So they left their father Zebedee in the boat  
along with the hired men and followed him.

***The Gospel of the Lord***