



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)



John 1: 35 – 42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he 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 see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated the Christ). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

Excerpts from the *Lectionary, Sundays and Solemnities*, copyright ©Concacan, Inc., 1992, 2009. All rights reserved. This edition of the lectionary follows the *Ordo Lectionum Missae, editio typical altera, Typis Polyglottis Vaticanus, 1981*.



Reflection:

There are many questions we are asked in life, but none as direct as Jesus’ opening question in John’s Gospel: “What are you looking for?” Not only is it the foundational question of his entire Gospel, but it is the foundational question of our lives. There are many answers to the question, but few that truly satisfy. John’s Gospel points to Jesus; it is only in God that we find the fulfillment of all our desires – all that is good leads to him.



Table Discussion (at mealtime):

Imagine Jesus turning around and asking you the same question, “What are you looking for?” How would you respond and why?

This could also be done as a prayer journal exercise for those who may not feel comfortable sharing or who may want to follow up on the table discussion by going a little deeper.



Parenting Corner:

With high school children you may want to play the song: **Sweet Dreams** by the Eurythmics <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qeMFqkcPYcg> . In it, Annie Lennox claims that “everybody is looking for something”.

“How is this true?”

“Why do you need wisdom in following your heart?”

And/or

St. Augustine, who travelled far away from God in his youth, wrote in his Confessions, “Our soul is restless until it rests in you, O Lord.”

“What do you think he was trying to say?”

“Do you ever feel restless and filled with desire?” (It’s quite normal, you know)

“How do you deal with it?”

Some or all of this can also be done as a prayer journal exercise for high school children. The prayer journal is generally best done as a follow up to a short discussion. I strongly encourage parents to share some of their own “restlessness” stories. Restlessness is part of our human condition.



“What Are You Looking For?” – Spiritual Resolutions and Reflection Questions

With the question on the table, it might be good to look at your spiritual journey and see if there is anything missing. The beginning of the year is a good time to make some spiritual resolutions. Here are some ideas:

- Setting aside a time for prayer (this doesn’t have involve a lot of time; consistency is more important). Spending a minute, once or twice a day, looking at a crucifix or reading a short passage from the Gospels can be wonderful opportunities for Christ to speak to you.
- Beginning a daily reflection journal with the question: “Where did I see Christ today?” (Keep your written reflections short and to the point; be thankful for the blessing).
- During Mass we hear the words: “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the Lord.” (When the Body and Blood of Christ are held up before Communion) Then hear Jesus say: “What are you looking for (when you come to Mass)?” This may well be a good reflection question for prayer or for a journal entry.
- “What are you looking for?” Is also a good question to ask when reflecting on your relationship to your parish family. Hear Jesus say: “Come and See.”
- Taking a minute or two at the end of the day to ask yourself: “Looking at the scope of my actions this day, what was the focus of my day; what was I looking for?”
- Take a moment to reflect on your spiritual hunger. “Are you engaged in a healthy diet of spiritual practices that nourish the soul, mind and heart and bring you closer to God?”

Remember the three steps: 1) Jesus asks “What are you looking for?”

2) We are asked to provide an answer.

3) Jesus says: “Come and See.”



The Quest: (Bedtime Story)

Once upon a time, in a small town, there lived a young man with big dreams. They were dreams of pirates and lost treasure, of fame and fortune, and a beautiful family as well.

One night, as he was sleeping, he had a dream. In this dream, his many big dreams came together under a set of clear directions and the face of a stranger. He was told to go to such and such a place, a two months journey by foot; there he would find a treasure, the answer to all his dreams.

The next day, the young man set off, packing as best he could. With donkey in tow and food in his sack, he whistled as he went his way.

The town was just as his dream had shown him and the stranger was easily found. But what to do next, he didn't know. It was while he was thinking, and gathering his thoughts on what to do next, that the stranger spoke.

"I had a strange dream last night," he said, a pensive look on his face. "It spoke of riches and lost treasure, the fulfilment all my dreams. I saw a home and a family, the details so clear and precise." And, as the stranger spoke, the young man sat stunned; in every detail the stranger described the young man's family and home. Down to the pictures on the wall and the clothes on their backs, the description was so precise.

"I was told in my dream," the stranger finally ended, "that great treasure is buried there, and lucky the man who knows where it is, because I wasn't giving any directions how to get me there."

"That's strange," the young man spoke, "for of what you speak, I'm quite familiar. The treasure I seek I left behind with family and friends, with my home and Church."



Saint Camillus de Lellis : (Bedtime story)

There was once a boy whose name was Camillus. Because he was born well after the rest of his parents' children and his mother lacked the energy to chase after him and his dad was never around, Camillus got to do whatever he wanted. This was even more the case, when his mother died and his older siblings wanted little to do with him.

Although Camillus' dad was a soldier, he rarely fought for his king or country. He fought for whomever was willing to pay him; good or bad, it didn't matter the cause.

Young Camillus had a bad temper and loved to gamble. The young people he hung around with were much the same. Camillus decided to follow in his father's footsteps and become a hired soldier. The money he earned was spent on gambling and parties.

God did speak to his heart in those days, but Camillus ignored him. After all, Camillus was able to do the things he liked to do and he didn't have the effort to change.

The life of a hired soldier and gambler is not always an easy one, especially if you lose more often than you win. Camillus' gambling debts were growing and his battle wounds were beginning to add up. At

one point, Camillus was so deep in debt, and down to his last piece of clothing, that he was begging for spare change on the doorsteps of a church.

A rich man came out of the church and took one look at Camillus. Seeing how young and strong Camillus was, the man wondered why Camillus was forced to beg. In addition to giving him a bit of money, the man also gave Camillus a piece of paper. "If you are interested in some work, young man," the man said. "I know a place that needs some workers. Here's the address, if you are interested."

Camillus took the note and stuffed it into his pocket and took the money as well. He thought about going to the worksite, but met up with his friends instead. On seeing the money that Camillus had received, they convinced him to go drinking and gambling instead.

For a few minutes, Camillus was happy to walk with them, but his heart began to stir. "This is no way to live one's life," he thought to himself. "But I have never known anything else." As he struggled with his thoughts, he slowly fell behind. When his friends finally called out to hurry up, Camillus waved goodbye to them and shouted, "Go on without me."

When his friends were almost out of sight Camillus began to run back to the church where he had begged. From there he followed the directions the rich man had given him. The directions led him straight to a housing complex that was being built for a group of men that followed in St. Francis of Assisi's footsteps. On seeing the rich man's name on the note, Camillus was hired instantly. He was given a place to stay, three meals a day and a little bit of money in return.

Camillus began to enjoy his new life. He appreciated the work, the opportunities for prayer and the new friends that he was making. He also felt much more at peace with himself and his many desires. He began to appreciate the importance of placing God at the centre of his life.

While visiting a hospital, with an old battle wound that would not heal, Camillus began looking after some of the sicker patients. "How good it is to look after my brothers and sisters in need," he thought to himself. And he began to wonder if God was calling him to set up his own small community of men who would look after the sick in this way.

Camillus and his small group of men visited all the poorest areas of town to look for those who were sick, hurt or in need in some way. They took them to their hospital, cleaned them up and tended to their wounds and needs. They would even go to battlefields to take care of the wounded. They painted a big red cross on their clothes to symbolize their work. Later, others would use that exact same symbol to advance their work towards the sick and injured.

There is a story told that, one day, a ship arrived by sea from a country far away. The sailors were refused entry into the city because they were sick with a terrible plague. On hearing this, Camillus and his men rushed to the harbour and boarded the ship. They were the only ones that were not afraid to take care of the sick. They did so at the terrible expense of their lives. Two of Camillus' companions died of the plague that week.

If you asked young Camillus, "What are you looking for?" He may have answered you in many different ways. As he grew older, and God began to change his life from one of gambling, drinking, fighting and partying to a life of peace of heart and service to his neighbour, Camillus' answer changed. "I am looking for something more in life than what life has to offer," he would say. "I am looking for the one who continues to call me by name and opens my heart to the many needs that are around me."