

October 13, 2019 Stewardship Month
Reflection -- COMMUNITY ~ Coming Out and Called Together

First Reading ~ *Matthew 4:12-25*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum, by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophesy of Isaiah was fulfilled: "*Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles (the peoples not of Israel), the people who sat in night have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the land of shadow and death, light has dawned.*"

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent (change your hearts and minds for the better, turn around), for the dominion of heaven has come near!" As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he saw two siblings, Simon (who is called Peter), and Andrew, casting a net into the sea. They fished for a living. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other siblings, James and John, in the boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the dominion of heaven, and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people. The word of him spread throughout all of Syria, and suffering people were brought to him, and he healed them. Great crowds joined and followed him, coming from Galilee, the Decapolis (the district of the ten cities east of the sea of Galilee), Jerusalem and Judea, and Transjordan.

Second Reading ~ *adapted from Albert Einstein*

My awareness of belonging to the community of those who strive for truth, beauty, and justice has preserved me from feeling isolated. The most beautiful and deepest experience a person can have is the sense of the mysterious. It is the underlying principle of religion as well as all serious endeavors in art and science. Anyone who never had this experience seems to me, if not dead, then at least without sight. To sense that behind anything that can be experienced there is a something that our mind cannot grasp, and whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly and as a faint reflection, this is religiousness. In this sense I am religious. To me it suffices to wonder at these secrets and to attempt humbly to grasp with my mind a mere image of the lofty structure of all that there is.

Third Reading ~ *adapted from Epictetus*

You're not an isolated entity, but a unique, irreplaceable part of the cosmos. Don't forget this. You are an essential piece of the puzzle of humanity. Each of us is a part of a vast, intricate, and perfectly ordered human community. But where do you fit into this web of humanity? To whom are you beholden? Look for and come to understand your connections to other people. We properly locate ourselves within the cosmic scheme by recognizing our relations to one another and thereby identifying our duties. These naturally emerge from such fundamental relations as our families, friends, neighborhoods, workplaces, our state or nation. Make it your regular habit to consider your roles—parent, child, neighbor, citizen, leader—and the duties that arise from them. Once you know who you are and to whom you are linked, you will know what to do.