

January 19, 2020

Epiphany 2A

**Come and See
(When An Experience Gets Ahold of You)**

Ancient Reading ~ John 1:29-42

The First Disciples of Jesus

The next day, catching sight of Jesus approaching, John exclaimed, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'After me comes one who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that this one might be revealed to Israel."

And John testified: "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and she remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, "When you see the Spirit descend and stay on someone, that is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Now I have seen for myself and have testified that this is God's Chosen One."

The next day John was by the Jordan again with two of his disciples. Seeing Jesus walk by, John said, "Look! There is the lamb of God!" The two disciples heard what John said and followed Jesus. When Jesus turned around and noticed them following, he asked them, "What are you looking for?"

They replied, "Rabbi (which translated means "Teacher"), where are you staying?"

"Come and see", Jesus answered.

So they went to see where he was staying, and they spent the rest of the day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

One of the disciples who had followed Jesus after hearing John was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. The first thing Andrew did was to find Simon Peter and say, "We've found the Messiah (which translated is Anointed, or Christ). Andrew brought Simon to Jesus who looked hard at him, and said, "You are Simon ben-Jonah; You will be called Cephas (which translated is Peter, or Rock).



Second Reading

*~ adapted from "Poverty and Economic Justice:
The Last March of Martin Luther King, Jr."*

The seeds of the Poor People's Campaign can be found in the Mississippi Delta. In June 1966 King and his closest associate, Reverend Ralph Abernathy, were visiting a Head Start daycare in Marks, Mississippi, a tiny town in Quitman County—the poorest county in the country. It took them a moment to notice that the bright-eyed children were malnourished. At lunchtime, the teacher brought out a brown paper bag of apples and a box of crackers.

When she cut an apple into quarters, and gave one slice, and four or five crackers, to each of the waiting, hungry students, King and Abernathy exchanged solemn glances. This was all the children had for lunch, they realized with shock. Neither man had ever seen poverty like this. Dr. King began weeping, and had to leave the classroom. That night, lying on a motel bed and staring at the ceiling, King said, "Ralph, I can't get those children out of my mind."