

IMAGINE THAT ONE DAY YOU ARE WALKING DOWN A STREET AND UP AHEAD YOU SUDDENLY SEE JESUS. YOU START TO FOLLOW HIM. HE TURNS AROUND, SMILES AS HE LOOKS AT YOU AND ASKS: “WHAT DO YOU WANT? WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?” ANOTHER TRANSLATION SAYS THAT JESUS ASKS “WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?”

WHAT A LOADED QUESTION. WHAT AM I LOOKING FOR? WHAT DO I WANT OR EXPECT OUT OF MY LIFE? WE COULD CONSIDER ALL SORTS OF THINGS LIKE SECURITY, HEALTH, WEALTH, HAPPY FAMILY LIFE, TO HAVE RESPECT FROM PEOPLE, TO MATTER AND BE CARED ABOUT.

THE ONE THING WE ALL WANT, AND NEED, TO FEEL FULFILLED AND TRULY ALIVE IS TO HAVE SOME-ONE WHO LOVES AND ACCEPTS US COMPLETELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY.

ALL HUMAN LOVE IS FLAWED IN MANY WAYS BY OUR OWN HUMAN CONDITION. THERE IS ONLY ONE PERSON WHO CAN LOVE US COMPLETELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY. THAT IS GOD.

THAT UNCONDITIONAL, COMPLETE LOVE IS REFLECTED IN GOD’S WORD TO US TODAY.

IN THE DEEP SILENCE OF THE NIGHT GOD CALLS TO SAMUEL. GOD CALLS TO SAMUEL BECAUSE HE LOVES HIM. AND HE WANTS SAMUEL TO KNOW HIM AND HIS LOVE. GOD CALLS TWICE BEFORE SAMUEL IS GUIDED IN THE RIGHT WAY TO RESPOND. SAY: "SPEAK LORD, YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING." THERE IS THE BASIS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD: WE ARE HIS SERVANTS: NOT BETTER THAN HIM, NOT HIS EQUALS OR ONE WHO CAN MAKE DEMANDS ON HIM. WE ARE HIS SERVANTS. WE ARE HERE NOW TO WORSHIP, TO SERVE, TO ACKNOWLEDGE GOD IN OUR LIVES.

WE COME IN NEED OF HIS LOVE, ADMITTING WE WANT HIS ACCEPTANCE, AS SERVANTS RECEIVING WHAT HE OFFERS.

IN THE GOSPEL THERE ARE THREE MOMENTS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE: THREE INDICATIONS OF RECOGNITION AND ACCEPTANCE.

WHEN JESUS PASSED BY JOHN STARED HARD AT HIM. WHEN JESUS TURNS TO THE MEN FOLLOWING HIM, HE SAW THEM. AND WHEN PETER COMES TO JESUS, JESUS LOOKED HARD AT HIM.

MANY TIMES WE CAN LOOK AT SOMETHING OR SOMEONE AND NOT REALLY SEE. IT TAKES A SPECIAL WAY OF LOOKING IN ORDER TO TRULY SEE.

WE HAVE TO BE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT. IF WE DON'T CARE WE DON'T REALLY SEE.

WHAT WE LOOK AT MUST MATTER TO US OR WE WONT SEE IT.

WHAT WE LOOK AT MUST BE IMPORTANT AND MEANINGFUL FOR US OR WE WONT SEE IT.

HOW AND WHY WE LOOK AT THINGS IS IMPORTANT.

THE TWO DISCIPLES OF JOHN ALSO GIVE US THE SECRET OF GETTING TO KNOW JESUS IN OUR LIFE. THEY WANTED TO KNOW WHERE HE LIVED SO THAT THEY COULD SPEND TIME WITH HIM. THEY WERE CAPTIVATED BY JESUS. THEY FOUND HIM WARM, FRIENDLY, WELCOMING. THEY SENSED THEY HAD MET A REMARKABLE PERSON, SOMEONE WHO WAS TO BE IMPORTANT FOR THEM AND THEIR LIVES.

IS THAT HOW I SEE JESUS? DO I TRULY FIND JESUS HERE? AM I LOOKING FOR JESUS HERE? OUR MASS MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT JESUS. OUR SACRAMENTS MEAN NOTHING WITHOUT JESUS. OUR PRAYER MEANS NOTHING WITHOUT JESUS. NOT TO KNOW JESUS IS NOT TO HAVE DISCOVERED WHAT CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT.

ANY CATHOLIC/CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY WITHOUT JESUS IS LIKE A DEAD BODY, LIFELESS AND UNMOVING.

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AFTER SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS, ANDREW TELLS PETER: WE HAVE FOUND THE CHRIST. WHAT JESUS SAID TO THEM HE SAYS TO US: COME AND SEE WHERE I LIVE, SPEND TIME WITH ME, LET ME LOOK AT YOU AND YOU LOOK AT ME. THEN WE WILL FIND EACH OTHER.