

Connecting With the Sunday Readings

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are all on a mission of search and discovery. We don't have all the answers. In fact, for most of us our questions far outweigh our answers. We are curious, desirous of making more sense out of the confusion of our lives. In a sense, when we are in this state of unease, we are exactly where God wants us, because only when we are searching, can we find the true God.

This Sunday we hear about two searchers. They went first to John the Baptist in the hope that he would be the one they were seeking. Then Jesus came along and they went to Jesus. The Gospel reading gives us no clue as to why they followed Jesus. Later on, we hear stories of those who are led by God's Spirit. Most likely, that's what happened to the searchers. One of the searchers was Andrew, Peter's brother. That first meeting with Jesus motivated him to go and get Peter. The rest, of course, is history!

A Gospel Word for the Home

John 1:35–42

We are all capable of finding God, but the ways we do so vary. One size doesn't fit all. Today we hear about Jesus' first two disciples. They were led by wonder. They asked a simple question that had depths they could hardly imagine: "...where are you staying?" they asked him (John 1:38). Jesus' response is equally simple, and also profound. "...Come and see" (John 1:39). Eventually they would see that this passing rabbi (teacher) would reveal to them the deepest truth of their lives.

But it all started with a question, a searching for something more. Do we respect the questions that dwell within us? Are we always searching for that greater insight about our lives and ourselves? Do we encourage our children to ask questions, especially those touching on our Christian faith? Today we speak of God as the Great Mystery. By that we don't mean "mystery" as in mystery story, but as the One who exceeds all creation, the boundless source of all that is and ever will be. When we find (or are given) a small piece of that mystery, we hunger for more and more and more. We are designed by God with an insatiable hunger for God and for truth. Every day we begin again. Everyday we are invited by Jesus to come and see the wonders of God. Each of us, with all the members of our family, travel together in a lifelong journey of discovery.

Parent Survival

Sometimes we feel inadequate or even guilty if we don't have perfect answers to the various questions that come our way. But know that the answers to the deep questions of life are often so deep and complex that we never come to the end of them. And when that happens, it's okay. Our lives are wrapped in the mystery of God's love. We swim in questions that have no final answers, at least on this side of life.

We grow when we remain open to new questions and further insights. To be human is to be a questioner, to be a searcher for ever-deeper insight into the vast mystery—which is our life.

Car or Meal Talk

What is the biggest question that each of us has? Maybe we can help each other in our search for an answer.

One-Line Prayer

God of Great Mystery,
We bow before your greatness. Help us in our desire to know you better.
Amen.