

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

January 24, 2021 • 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 1:14-20

Fishers of Men

Jesus encounters Andrew and Peter by the sea, fishing for their livelihood. He invites them to become his first apostles. As Jesus travels further on the beach, he sees James and John, the sons of Zebedee, and invites them to drop their nets and join him.

Before Jesus begins his public ministry he gathers a group of men to walk with him. He understands that he will need support and even encouragement if he is to accomplish his mission. Jesus realizes how big the job was going to be, and he knew he would need help if he wanted his message to reach as many people as possible.

It was the disciples who seemed to do most of the negotiating for the everyday necessities (a place to stay, food for the crowds, etc.). There is a great lesson in this Gospel for all of us. If even Jesus needed people to nurture and encourage him, consider how important the support of a loving community is for us, and our children. Staying committed to Christian values is not always easy in today's society. This is why it is essential to surround your children and yourself with people who share your values.

Christians are not theists. We do not believe in a "me and God" approach to religion. We are Christians; we find God all around us, especially in other people. A faith community is essential for Christians. Become involved in your church, get to know people socially so your children have other role models to look up to.

Our children also need to see that Mom or Dad sometimes needs help. Parents make mistakes and messes that have to be fixed or cleaned up too. Children need to see that even their parents, on occasion, need their help. All of this is part of teaching our children to be interdependent, a crucial learning if they are going to understand what it means to be a Christian.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss who the people are who support and nurture your family. Decide on a way to thank them.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Outside of your immediate family, what group of people is your greatest support? How can they help you? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?