

Back to the Future

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 14, 2018 – John 1:35 – 42

With the completion of the Christmas Season, we are back to the future, back to what is to become Jesus' life and mission. The Church, in her wisdom, sets us on this course each year giving us the story of the adult Jesus, flung from the crib into the midst of his adult life. Why does the Church do this?

We need to understand that the Church is not attempting to teach a historical or chronological story. The Church takes her wisdom from the gospel writers who are writing a story of faith. There is purpose in this structure. We are on the annual journey from crib to cross. This journey calls each of us to a renewed faith; a faith grounded in today but made for our future home in heaven.

Over the next few weeks we will hear of Jesus' saving actions. He will call the disciples to follow him. He will heal a man of an unclean spirit and raise a young girl to life. He wills that the leper be made clean. And the people come. They come to this future life of faith, joy, peace and healing.

“John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi-which translated means Teacher--”, “where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.”

My understanding of this question “where are you staying” has nothing to do with location or residence. It has to do with the state of Jesus' being. He resides and abides in God who is the past, present, and future home of all of us. We are called this week to join Andrew and Simon Peter in following Jesus into the future life with God. If we are believers, we continue. If we lack the faith that Jesus offers, we have the invitation to follow.

We are all called into the future life of God, present today in our relationship with Christ which we celebrate at the table of the Lord every week. This weekly banquet that the Church celebrates marks the on-going and future banquet in heaven. Today we are all invited back to the future with the words.... “Come and you will see.”

Blessings!


Sue Schettler