

*St. Joseph Vaz, was an Oratorian priest and missionary in Sri Lanka. He was born in 1651 at Benaolim, in Goa. Vaz arrived in Ceylon during the Dutch occupation, when the Dutch were imposing Calvinism. By the time of his death, (1711) Vaz had managed to rebuild the Catholic Church on the island.*



**First Reading:** (Heb 4:12-16) The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Ps 18:8-10,15**

**R. / Your words, Lord, are spirit,  
and they are life.**

**Gospel:** (Mk 2:13-17) Jesus went out again beside the sea; and all the crowd gathered about him, and he taught them. And as he passed on, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax office, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners were sitting with Jesus and his disciples; for there were many who followed him. And the scribes of the Pharisees, when they saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, said to his disciples, "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?" And when Jesus heard it, he said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

### REFLECTION

Jesus called Levi and there is an instant conversion. How does Levi react to his conversion? The scripture passage tells us that **Levi was so excited on having met Jesus and received a new life that he throws a party to his friends.** He calls his friends and introduces Jesus to them. This is how Levi reacts. The scribes on the other hand were scandalized that Jesus went to eat at a sinner's home. Heaven according to them was exclusively meant for the pure like them; hence Jesus going to Levi's house and mixing with his friends was not well taken by them. The point is, 'Who needs a doctor'?

Has my life been touched by Jesus? Does my faith excite me? Do I need a doctor? Am I celebrating my life in Jesus?