


 A photograph of a person in a boat on the sea, with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer. The person is wearing a light-colored, possibly white, garment that is draped over their shoulders and arms. The sea is dark blue with white-capped waves, and the sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is one of joy and devotion.

Mark 1: 14-20

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

16As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” 18At once they left their nets and followed him.

First Reading: (*Jon 3:1-5, 10*) The word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he cried, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God repented of the evil which he had said he would do to them; and he did not do it.

Ps 24:4-9

R. / Lord, make me know your ways.

Second Reading: (*1 Cor 7:29-31*) I mean, brethren, the appointed time has grown very short; from now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none,

and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the form of this world is passing away.

Gospel: (*Mk 1:14-20*) After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.” And passing along by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net in the sea; for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants, and followed him.



REFLECTION

Only after John was “arrested” that Jesus begins his ministry with his public proclamation, the call of the first disciples and a series of healings. On the one hand, John’s arrest indicates the completion of the forerunner’s role, and on the other what awaits Jesus and anyone who takes up his invitation to share his mission. Jesus’ preaching begins precisely where John left off: the Kingdom of God is already there; what everybody was awaiting was already present in their lives without their realizing it. It is in this hidden presence of the Kingdom in the midst of the people that Jesus reveals Himself to the poor of His land. The appropriate response to the coming of the kingdom is twofold: repent and believe in the Gospel. Repentance starts with a new vision rather than the guilt feelings and therefore, the call is to “change one’s way of thinking and of living” in order to be able to perceive the presence of the Kingdom in life. This is possible only through an act of faith which would make it possible for people to live confidently in the midst of difficulty, to keep moving forward toward seemingly impossible goals. The first objective of the proclamation of the Good News is to form a community. And Jesus does it just out of ordinary people who are “casting and mending” to make a living. **These routines are also the circumstances in which Jesus comes to us, the context in which we hear the call to a new life, and the place where we are changed and the ordinary becomes the extraordinary.** That work in which we are all called to participate is always about moving to a larger vision, orienting our life in a new direction. The response was immediate and unconditional, letting go off everything. What about us?