

**Fr. Nick Dant's Homily, Saint Matthew Catholic Church  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jan. 16-17, 2021, Cycle B**

Now that we have just finished the Christmas Season proclaiming that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, to be the Word made Flesh, sent to be the Messiah and Light of all the Nations, we reflect over the next several weeks on God's call to us in our lives. If we believe Jesus to be the Messiah and the one who brings light into our dark world – then we must realize that God is calling us to follow this Jesus and live our lives proclaiming Jesus as the Light of all the Nations.

Our Old Testament passage from 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel recounts for us the call of the prophet Samuel. Samuel was but a youth, still an apprentice at the knees of Eli, the high priest temple in Shiloh. The story of the call of Samuel first of all teaches that age doesn't matter when it comes to the call of God – God is always calling us whether in youth, middle age, or old age. When it comes to God calling us, there is no retirement.

When Samuel and old Eli finally figure out that the Lord is the one calling the youth, Samuel's response was "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Our challenge is to respond to God's call in our lives in the same fashion. We are in a New Year now, and God challenges us to be disciples of Jesus, living for Jesus throughout this New Year. What is our response: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening," or "Be quiet, Lord, for I have no time to listen."

The gospel passage from John shows us what our response should be when Jesus is pointed out as the Lamb of God. The two disciples of John the Baptist, who heard John proclaim Jesus as the Lamb, actively sought out Jesus, those first two disciples recognized Jesus as someone in whom God made a home, and they were excited to share in that experience of being where God is! Jesus says to them: "What are you looking for?" They answer; "Rabbi, where are you staying?" Jesus answers: "Come, and you will see." And we are told: "...they went and saw... and stayed with Jesus that day."

The gospel writer is not talking about the house Jesus uses as a shelter, or what town he lives in, or street he lives on. When those two disciples ask Jesus: "Where do you stay?" They are asking what motivates you, what gives you life, where does your being reside? We, too, want to be and live in the same place you are. Jesus spent the whole day showing them.

Knowing that Jesus is the Light of the Nations, that He is the Lamb of God, our response too should be "Rabbi, where are you staying?" So over the next few weeks of Ordinary Time, the scripture passages we read at Mass will lead us to where Jesus is staying. We all would do well to spend time in prayer with these scripture passages saying as Samuel did: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Yes, speak, so we may know where you stay, and be well prepared to enter into the Lenten season when it comes – knowing where we must go.