

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time: Come and See! = "We have found the Lord"

John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the *Passover Lamb* (Ex.12) delivered the Israelites from their oppression in Egypt and from the plague of death. The Lord Jesus freely offered up his life for us on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John in his characteristic humility was eager to point beyond himself to the Christ, the anointed Messiah, he did not hesitate to direct his own disciples to the Lord Jesus. When two of John's disciples began to seek Jesus out, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead, he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "*What are you looking for?*" Jesus asks each one of us the same question; "What are you searching for? Do you know the meaning and purpose for your life?" What am I looking for today?

"Come and see"! This is the Lord's invitation for each one of us to discover the joy of friendship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. When we find something of great value, it's natural that we want to share the good news of our discovery with our family and friends. When Andrew met Jesus and discovered that he was truly the Messiah, he immediately went to his brother Simon and told him the good news. Andrew brought his brother to meet Jesus so he could "come and see" for himself.

Jesus looked at Simon and revealed that he knew who Simon was and where he came from even before Simon had set his eyes on Jesus. Jesus gave Simon a new name which signified that God had a personal call and mission for him. Jesus gave Simon the name "*Cephas*" which is the Aramaic word for "rock".

To call someone a "rock" was one of the greatest compliments in the ancient world. The rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, He exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to build the world upon." Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith, Peter grasped who Jesus truly was - the *Anointed One (Messiah and Christ)* and the only begotten Son of God. He remained a 'rock', leading Church.

The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (1 Pt. 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into "*rocks*" or spiritual stones. The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith to know the Lord Jesus personally, the power to live the gospel faithfully, and courage to witness the truth and joy of the Gospel to others. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to draw us to himself.

Have you really found the Messiah in your life, who is able to make you 'rock'? Are you ready, like Andrew to share with joy that 'you have found the Lord' in your life, as the rock of your life?

Yes, your Christian witness begins with "finding the Lord in faith and knowing Him", "living the faith" and "sharing the faith". Like Samuel, let us say: Speak O Lord, thy servant listens! "Here I am Lord, I have come to do your will" Amen.