

Mark 1:16-20 Devotional
By The Reverend Tony Love

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him. (NRSV)

“Ok, God! I’ll go, and I’ll do it!” These are words that anyone, clergy or laity, have said in some form to God in response to a call to be, as our Communion litany says, “the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.” This is a reality that I faced many years ago as I began to grow in my faith and understand exactly what it meant to be called by God. It’s an honor to be called by God, let alone used by God, who has a way of using persons from all walks of life to do God’s will. One day, God called you. That’s right! God sought you out from where you were, your places of work and service, and God told you that there was something special for you to do. There was more in you that God was anxious to use. In the scripture passage, Jesus is calling his first disciples. He found them in everyday places doing everyday things, but do their surprise their lives would never be “everyday” ever again. This call brought about a change in their lives so great that many were brought to relationship with God. Embracing your call is not always easy, but it is certainly worth it. It’s worth it to have God’s approval. It’s worth it to have God’s support. It’s worth it to be backed by the One who promised to never leave or abandon us, and this God calls us, over and over again, into the joy of service in God’s Kingdom. Just like the disciples, what God has awaiting us on the other side of our “yes” is well worth everything God has called us to leave behind or give up. God is calling! Are you listening?

Reflection Questions:

How have you responded to the call of God that is on your life?

What have you given up to say “yes” to God, and how has your life changed as a result?

Prayer:

Loving God,

We thank you for calling us. Us! You have hand-picked us for Your service, and for that we are grateful. Equip us with all that we will need to do all that You have called us to do. Walk with us, God. We are trusting Your voice. In Jesus’ name. Amen.