

FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD 1.17.2021

Let's look at the Bible readings for the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany, Jan. 17, to prepare for on-line, drive-in, and in-person worship (10 am) with Abounding Joy.

1ST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 The Lord speaks to the boy Samuel

¹The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no frequent vision. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his own place. ³The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶And the Lord called again, "Samuel!" and Samuel arose and went to Eli and said,

"Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰And the Lord came and stood, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant hears."

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO I SAMUEL, CHAPTER 3

1. Does God speak to His servants today (audibly or in other ways) as He did to Samuel? If so, how does He speak to us?
2. How can we gauge whether or not voices or message we receive are from God?
3. What role does holy scripture play in this discerning process?

2ND READING: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³"Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" — and God will destroy both one and the other. **The body** is not meant for sexual immorality, but for the

Glorify God in your body

Lord, and the Lord for **the body**. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your **bodies** are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Or do you not know that he who is joined to a

prostitute becomes **one body** with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.”¹⁷ But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside **the body**, but the

sexually immoral person sins against his own **body**.¹⁹ Or do you not know that your **body** is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your **body**.

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO I CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 6:

1. What is implied by the (2x) use of the word “meant” in verse 13?
2. What does this text say to those who believe that as Christians we are free to do whatever we feel like doing sexually?
3. From where does the quote about “one flesh” in vs. 16 come?
4. What does this text say to those who proclaim, “It’s my body and I can do with it whatever I wish”?
5. What are some ways that we can glorify God in our bodies?

THE GOSPEL: John 1:43-51 Jesus’ identity is revealed as He calls disciples

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”⁴⁶ Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “**Come and see.**”⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no

deceit!”⁴⁸ Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.”⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.”⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

SOME QUESTIONS TO PONDER RELATED TO JOHN, CHAPTER 1:

1. What do you make of Nathanael’s sarcastic remark in verse 46?
2. The good news of who Jesus is and what He has come to do is spread mostly by word of mouth between people who know each other. What does Philip’s response in verse 46 teach us about how we are to share the Gospel?
3. What different things does this text tell us about who Jesus is?