Sunday Reading

A Reading from the Gospel of Mark 1:14–20: The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

Focus Questions

1. Where did Jesus go after John the Baptist had been arrested? What did He proclaim there?
2. Who were the first two Apostles Jesus called? What was their profession? What did Jesus say He would make them?
3. Who were the other brothers Jesus called to be His Apostles? What was their profession?
4. How did the men whom Jesus called to be Apostles in this Gospel respond to Jesus’ call?
Fishers of Men

Directions: Reflect on the two paintings and discuss the questions.

1. Take a moment to observe the first painting, which is called Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew and was painted by Ducio di Buoinsegna in 1310. What do you first notice about this painting? How does it make you feel?
2. What is happening in this painting?
3. Re-read the Gospel story from this week. How does this painting illustrate the story?
4. What does Jesus’ posture and gesture suggest He is doing?
5. How are the two men responding to Jesus?
6. Now take a look at the painting on the next page. It is called Fishers of Men and was painted by Adriaen van de Venne in 1614. What do you first notice about this painting? How does it make you feel?
7. Who are the men in the boats? What are they doing?
8. Who might the people on the shores be?
9. Why do you think there is a rainbow in the sky? What story from Scripture does this make you think of? Why do you think the artist chose to include this detail?
10. How are these two paintings related to one another?

Reflection Question:
If Jesus came to you today and asked you to leave everything behind to follow Him, how would you respond? Would it be easy or difficult to do as He asked? Why?