

Lessons for Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14, 2024

Psalm 139:1-10 ~ *David acknowledged God's omnipresent and inescapable grasp of his total being.*

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) ~ *When Samuel finally recognized God's voice, he answered God's call.*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 ~ *We have been bought at the price of Christ's death to honor Him.*

John 1:43-51 ~ *Jesus called Philip and Nathanael and enlisted them in His mission.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: When God Calls, Answer!

Three times God called to Samuel before Eli realized it was the Lord; then he told the young boy to listen. Nathanael asked Jesus boldly, "How do You know me?" He listened when Jesus told him what he had been doing before Philip invited him to come to Jesus. St. Paul spoke boldly, saying that we should listen to God's will and reflect it in our lives, because we have been bought with the price of Christ's death. When we answer God's call, we give glory to God through our lives.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Almighty God, Your Word is clear and often more direct than I want to hear! Keep me from being offended by it so that I may respond eagerly to Your call to serve You with my whole life. Help me share Your invitation with others in an honest but loving way. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: We have been bought for God and His mission at the price of Christ's death. We cannot do anything less than use all that we have - talents, time, and treasure - for His Kingdom..

OFFERING PRAYER:

You, O Lord, have claimed us, body, soul, and spirit,
Even all our earthly goods enlisted in Your mission.
Every day Your Spirit calls, grant that we may hear it
And respond with gen'rous hearts: "Speak, Lord, Your servants listen!"

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: While we often overlook the *good that has come from Nazareth* (sometimes considering the message that Jesus is the *ladder or doorway* to God as too fantastic a claim, and sometimes considering ourselves too wise to be taken in by such a claim), we may take heart in knowing that faith is not of our doing. It is called forth from us as we are shown the wonders of God's work in Jesus. Just as it was with Nathanael, we cannot help ourselves when Jesus calls us to faith in His divine work of connecting us with the Father.

Questions to Consider: When the Lord speaks, listen!

- How can you recognize when the Lord is speaking to you?
- What does Luther's phrase, "not with gold or silver," mean to you?
- How did God use Philip to call Nathanael to faith? Where was the Spirit in that?
- Luther says the Holy Spirit calls us by the gospel. What power does the gospel have in your life?