

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mk 1: 14-20)

“The Grace of Discipleship”



There is a grace present in all of Scripture, a grace that we too often narrowly associate only with scriptural figures. The God of today's Jonah story is the same God we see Jesus reveal to us in the Gospel. Both readings today are tales of mercy, freely given, unlimited and unearned. God, it seems, is free to bestow mercy on whomever God chooses. Yet that same grace is eternally present and given, just as freely, to each of us.

Like Jonah and the prophets, Jesus preached repentance, "metanoia." He invited people to have a change of heart and return to God.

Repentance means acknowledging one's sins and seeking forgiveness. Jesus links repentance with believing the good news, "Repent and believe the gospel."

Today's Gospel, God's call is a challenge to us to respond to service. Each of us has been called and is being called by name right now. Our baptism reminds of that. We will pray at this Eucharist for open ears to hear again Jesus' call, "Come follow me...." We'll ask to be shown concretely how we can respond now to that call - on the job, in our homes and out in the world.



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