

*“Jesus invites us to look at our lives in a new way.”*

Once again we hear the message of Jesus, “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent...” The invitation is to re-think our lives and re-structure our priorities. For so many people, life is something that just happens. Relationships come, or do not come, by chance. Job opportunities come along and become lifetime careers out of economic necessity instead of a desire to spend one’s time in this work. We settle into routines that are safe and secure, albeit devoid of passion and adventure. For passion and adventure we have television to lull us through the evening before we do it all again the next day.

Jesus invites us to look at our lives in a new way. He invites us to focus and center our lives on something more meaningful than mere survival and economic security. Jesus invites us to follow Him, and put God and God’s plan for our salvation at the center of our lives. He invites us to actively order our lives so that all decisions, about economics, relationships, how we spend our time, how we use our talents, what kind of morals or ethics we practice, all flow from our core beliefs about the purpose of our being here.

When Jesus called the disciples they dropped everything, leaving their jobs and their relationships behind to become disciples and learn from the Lord how to live meaningfully. Then their work and their relationships could be better embraced, and put to the service of God and the kingdom, instead of being the determining factors of how they lived out their time.

Jesus calls to us as well. If we follow Him we will come to learn that life is a wonderful gift to be seized and used to further the kingdom and to invest in the promise of eternal life. It is a great adventure filled with challenge, joy, hardship, celebration, suffering, love, and most of all, hope. Life is pregnant with meaning and possibility. It is not meant to be something that just happens to us.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat