

*"We are invited to spend time with the Lord."*

January 18, 2009 - 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel passage is from the first chapter of John. In this short passage at the beginning of his work the evangelist identifies Jesus with three titles. John the Baptist calls Jesus "the lamb of God." Andrew and the other disciple of John the Baptist call Jesus "Rabbi" (or Teacher). Later, when speaking of Jesus to his brother Simon, Andrew calls Jesus "Messiah."

These titles are uttered in faith by a few people. The rest of John's Gospel will be the public revelation of the truth and accuracy of their early faith.

This passage is wonderful for us to reflect upon as we move from the Christmas season to Ordinary time. In Ordinary time the Gospel passages focus on the teachings of Jesus and His miracles, so that we can study them and become better followers or disciples. Jesus will become our teacher.

When the disciples of John the Baptist wanted to know more about Jesus, they asked Him where He lived. Jesus did not tell them, but instead invited them to "Come and see." The same invitation is extended to us in Ordinary time. We are invited to spend time with the Lord, watch Him in action, speak to Him in prayer, and come to know Him better. If we do that we will come to see the truth and the significance of Jesus' titles. We will be led to deeper faith, and perhaps, like Andrew, we will want to bring others to Jesus.

Or maybe we will be like Simon, having Jesus know exactly who we are, but changing us.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat