

# "Come and See - Go and Do"

1 Samuel 3:1-20 & John 1:43-51

January 15, 2006

Well, I have to tell you - I love our kids in this congregation - and specifically right now I am thinking about our confirmation aged kids. They are fun, intelligent, outgoing and honest. Honesty -It is a great quality - even though sometimes a person can be discouraging. We were doing a fun activity last Wednesday and one thing the kids had to find in the Bible was the story of the Exodus and the Ten Commandments. There was a bit of consternation about where to find that story and I reminded them that we had talked about it last year in confirmation. To which one shared, "Well, ya - but you didn't think we were listening, did you?"

Samuel lays on a cot asleep in the temple. You know the story from Sunday School. His mother, Hanna, had been unable to have children but was finally blessed after praying to God and promising that any child would be dedicated to God's service. When Samuel was born, his mother followed through with that promise and Samuel is now serving God and the priest, Eli, in the Temple. In the early morning hours as Samuel and Eli sleep, God speaks. Samuel hears - but not really. It happens a second and then a third time before Samuel actually comes to understand that it is God who is speaking and he finally really listens. Over the years that would follow, Samuel will listen well to the word of God and serve Him faithfully.

John the Baptist had a faithful following of disciples. When Jesus came along and was baptized, John began to try to convince his followers to follow Jesus. But who was this man named Jesus anyway. When Phillip, in our Gospel text, told Nathanael about Jesus all he could wonder was if it was even possible for anyone of any importance to come out a 'hick' town like Nazareth. Now Nathanael was a faithful believer in God. He must have often 'sat under the fig tree, out of the scorching sun studying the sacred scriptures. But, in the beginning Nathanael was not ready to listen to his friend Phillip - but he did get up and go to listen to Jesus and would become a faithful follower of Jesus.

There was a man named Paul Quillian who, as a young man had little thought of ministry and was working at a soda bottling plant when his pastor stopped to see him one day. His pastor started with the question, "How old are you?" "Thirty." The pastor then asked him, "When you stand finally before the Lord God, what will you tell him you did on earth--make red soda water?" The young man was offended and snapped back, "And what is wrong with red soda water?" "Nothing, my son, except you happen to be endowed with great talents and abilities which I cherish for God and the Christian ministry." This young man listened and acted - ultimately becoming the pastor of a church which grew to 6000 members.

**There are a lot of appropriate themes that we could come up with today. During this Epiphany season we are seeing the beginning of the revealing of Jesus as the Christ. Like the early disciples, we are called to be open to believing that Jesus is the Christ. We are called to listen and respond to the call to come and see - check it out. But listening is not enough - checking it out is not enough either. Samuel finally listened - but the listening compelled him to do something with what God said. The revealing of Jesus as the Savior calls for a response - it calls for action.**

**My guess is that you have heard this little story before - I know that I have. But when I ran into this little 'ditty' this week I found that I just could not help myself - I had to use it. It is the story of two robins.** Two robins were sitting in a tree. "I'm really hungry," said the first one. "Me too," said the second one. "Let's fly down and find some lunch." They flew to the ground and found a nice plot of plowed ground full of worms. They ate and ate and ate and ate 'til they could eat no more. "I'm so full I don't think I can fly back up to the tree," said the one. "Me either." said the second. "Let's just lay here and bask in the warm sun." "O.K.," said the first robin. They plopped down, basking in the sun. No sooner had they fallen asleep than a big fat cat snuck up and gobbled them up. As he sat washing his face after his meal, he thought, "I love baskin' robins."

**We have been blessed with the revealed word of God who has come to us in the person of Jesus the Savior. We have been blessed to feed on His word and receive the rich blessings of His love and mercy. It would be easy to simply bask in the blessing. But the invitation to 'come and see' is not the final word. We are also invited - challenged to 'go and do'.**

It is said that St. Francis of Assisi, invited a young monk to join him on a trip into town to preach one day. The young monk was so honored to get such an invitation from St. Francis that he quickly accepted. All day long he and St. Francis walked through the streets and alleys of the town, and they rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people.

At the end of the day, the two headed back home. The young monk was very disappointed. Not once had St. Francis addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the gospel. He finally said to St. Francis, "I thought we were going into town to preach?" St. Francis responded, "My son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We saw and were seen by many and our behavior was closely watched. It is of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk!"

**God calls to us. Jesus invites us to come and see - to follow Him. We bask in the blessings of faith. Have we listened and become lazy or have we followed and been so excited about life in Christ that our lives reflect the love of God? Phillip got so excited that he had to share the good news.**

There is a story told of two men who had been business partners for over twenty years. They met one Sunday morning as they were leaving a restaurant. One of them asked, "Where are you going this morning?" "I'm going to play golf. What about you?" The first man responded rather apologetically, "I'm going to church." The other man said, "Why don't you give up that church stuff?" The man asked, "What do you mean?" "Well, we have been partners for twenty years. We have worked together, attended board meetings together, and had lunch together, and all of these twenty years you have never asked me about going to church. You have never invited me to go with you. Obviously, it doesn't mean that much to you."

**Come and see - go and do!**