

Ordinary Time 2B 2015

Come and See

How different the church looks today when compared to last week. Its columns are no longer adorned with greens. The Christmas wreathes, the poinsettias, and our beautiful crèche are gone. The Christmas season has ended, and we have entered that period the church calls her Ordinary Time. After celebrating the mystery of Advent and Christmas, we have returned to that time when we reflect on the mystery of Christ's life and ministry. We call this time "ordinary," but it is a time of extraordinary grace. For it is during this ordinary time that Christ calls us to live the life of discipleship. It is during this ordinary time that we encounter the extraordinary grace of God in our lives.

For example, in today's Gospel Jesus teaches us how to experience God's grace in the ordinary events of our lives. When the disciples of John the Baptist come to him, Jesus says, "What are you looking for?" Embarrassed, they awkwardly respond, "Where do you live?" And in response Jesus says to them, "come and you will see." This conversation between Jesus and his disciples seems so simple, but listen to it again. First, Jesus asks "*What are you looking for?*" This, of course, is the central question of life, the question we must answer throughout our life. What are we looking for? Surely we are looking for happiness and

contentment. Surely we are looking for something that will give depth and meaning to our lives. We know what we want, but we don't know where to find it.

Second, the disciples ask Jesus where he lives, but instead of telling them where he lives, he invites them to come and see, to live and dwell with him, and there they will find what they are looking for. He invites them to share in his life, to enter into his union with God, and there they will find what they are looking for. Jesus invites them to see how he lives in God's presence, and there they will find what they are looking for. He invites them to share in his life by being his disciples. For only when they are his disciples will they understand that Jesus lives and dwells with God. Only then will they know what they are looking for.

At the beginning of this ordinary time, Jesus poses the same question to us that he asks the disciples, and he gives us the same invitation. He asks what we are looking for, and he invites us to come and see, to come and live with him. For when we live with him, we live with God; and when we live with God, we find what we are looking for.

Yes, the inside of our church is plain and barren days during this ordinary time, but ordinary time can be a season of extraordinary grace if we come and live with Jesus as his disciples.