



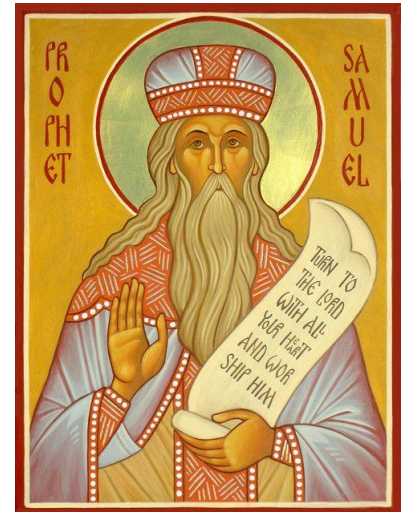
Having passed through all the drama of Christmas, we now return to the liturgical season in which we spend most of our time: the season of “Ordinary Time.” Now is the time to bring all the graces of Christmas into our daily “ordinary” life. In this week’s Gospel (Jn 1:35-42), Jesus notices a couple would-be disciples following Him. He turns and asks them a question: “What are you looking for?” I wonder . . . what would I say if Jesus were to ask me that question? What would you say? Think about it.

The disciples answered, “Rabbi . . . where are you staying?” In other words, “We acknowledge you as our teacher (i.e. Rabbi) and we want to stay with you; we want to see the way you live and to learn from you the answers to the deepest questions of life.” Good answer! Jesus responds with an invitation, “Come and you will see.”

Today, and every day, Jesus continues to extend this invitation to each of us. In order for us to learn the

real and profound meaning of our “ordinary” lives we must be willing to acknowledge Him as our teacher and study the manner of His life – learn where He stays and spend time with Him.

In the First Reading (1 Sam 3:3-10,19), Samuel provides a great example of how to learn from God. When he perceived the Lord’s desire to speak to him, he answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” In like manner, we perceive God’s voice in the Scriptures and in the teaching of the Catholic Church which was instituted by Christ precisely to enable us to stay with Jesus and learn from Him. So, whenever we hear the teaching of Christ in the teaching of His Holy Church we must humbly respond, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” With the disciples in today’s Gospel we say, “Jesus, You are our teacher, we want to model our lives in accordance with Your Will; we believe that if we deny our own desires and opinions in preference to Yours, we will learn the real and profound meaning of our lives.”



Today Jesus asks each of us, “What are you looking for?” We are all searching for God whether we know it or not because God is the ultimate source of all good things: Love, Peace, Joy, Wisdom, Beauty, Courage, Goodness, Truth, Virtue, Salvation, etc.... If only we would acknowledge His teaching authority and spend time with Him, we would in fact discover the ultimate beauty and meaning of our “ordinary” life . . . we would find exactly what we are looking for.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr. Terry Staples