**Sunday**

**Follow Me!**



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 **Reflecting on:**

**“Follow Me”**

**Reading:**

 Luke 9: 51-62

**Other Readings:**

 1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21; Psalm 16: 1-2, 5, 7-11; Galatians 5: 1, 13-18

**1. Lectio:** Jesus needs a bed for the night in a certain Samaritan village. When the Samaritans realise Jesus is heading for Jerusalem, they turn him away.

 There was centuries of friction between Jews and Samaritans. Many Jews regarded Samaritan as worse than pagans and tried to avoid any contact with them.

 James and John react strongly when the Samaritans turn Jesus away and want to call down God’s Judgment to destroy them. But Jesus rebukes his disciples for their response and simply moves on.

 Next Luke tells us about a series of encounters with people who seem to be keen to become Jesus’ disciples. Jesus is on his way to die for the sake of the gospel and is looking for total commitment in those who want to be his disciples. So he is direct and tests their sincerity.

 In the first exchange Jesus says ‘...the Son of Man has nowhere to lie down and rest.’ This is a reminder that ultimately Jesus’ home is not in this world. The same is true for Christians – ‘We, however, are citizens of heaven,’ (Philippians 3: 20).

 Another man wants to follow Jesus but first he asks to bury his father. At face value this seems a reasonable request. Jesus’ reply seems harsh and uncaring. We know Jesus upholds honouring one’s parents. Following Jesus must be our first priority. Taking care of family obligations must be out of obedience to Jesus, not an excuse for delaying obedience to him.

 The same idea is expressed in verses 61-62. To plough a straight furrow you need to stay focused on the task in front of you. If you keep looking back you will veer off course.

**2. Meditatio:**

**\*** How do the ideas contained here challenge your own priorities? Have you ever said to Jesus, ‘yes, but later...’?

**\*** In what ways can we ‘proclaim the Kingdom of God’?

**\*** Consider Jesus’ attitude to John and James after their emotional outburst against the Samaritans. What can we learn from this?

**3. Oratio:**

Ask God to speak to you from today’s passage. Tell him honestly how you feel about it.

Are you ready to follow the Call of God? If you really want to be one of his disciples, ask the Holy Spirit to help you with the areas of your life you find hardest to give to God. Ask God to help you focus on serving him and not get distracted by things that take you off course.

**4. Contemplatio:**

Consider the Kingdom of God. What influence does it have on your life? Consider what it really means to follow Jesus and be his disciple.

* **Prayer of the Day**

Lord God of mercy and love,

Guide me to a new life filled with wonders of your power.

Help me to forgive as you would forgive,

to counsel others with the wisdom of your word,

to be compassionate with others as you are with me.

Help me to work for justice in a world where injustice prevails,

to work for peace in a world gone mad with war.

Help me to pray with fervent hope,

to hope with fervent love, and

to love with fervent faith.

God of mercy and love,

increase my faith, and

help me to persevere in my vocation

to follow you until the end. Amen.



