

Reflections Along the Way

Epiphany 5 C

Luke 5:11 When they had brought their boats ashore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

Jesus wants you for a follower! Explain in your own words what it means to “leave everything and follow Jesus.”

Are you aware of any differences in the lives of people who strive to follow Christ and those who don't?

To you, how do those differences appear? Is it worth it to be a disciple of Christ? (Even when those who don't follow sometimes seem to have the inside track on the “good life?”)

The word *disciple* is closely related to the word “discipline.” What do you understand to be some of the disciplines of the Christian life? Are the disciplines you named duties and obligations, or are they joys?

How public are you about your life as a disciple? Are there people in your life whom you would be afraid to tell about your Christian convictions? Is this fear one of the things you might leave behind (as the disciples left their nets) to follow Christ?

Almighty God, in Christ you call us to leave our selves behind and follow Christ. Help us to make this commitment to you each day, and when we fail, refresh us by your forgiveness that we might try again tomorrow. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Reflections Along the Way

Advent 2 C

Malachi 3:1 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me

Advent is a time of reflection and preparation. It is often described as a time in which we prepare for the “three comings” of Christ:

1. as a Savior, in Bethlehem
2. into our lives each and every day, and
3. at the end of time as Redeemer of the world

How are you preparing during this Advent season to receive the Christ?

Which of the three comings of Christ is most significant for you in this time of preparation? Why?

In the Scriptures the prophets like Malachi were some of those who helped Israel to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Who are some of the people who have prepared you for a life with Christ? How did they do it?

Lord God, we give you thanks for all those who have brought the message of your Good News to us. Help us to be messengers of your love to others through all that we say and do. Amen.

*One of the Bible or lectionary study guides contributed by the members
of the North American Association for the Catechumenate.*

www.catechumenate.org