

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-11

I love to do your will, O my God. (v8)

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, our strength & our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you & faithfully serve you, follow you & joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 1:29-42

²⁹[John the Baptizer] saw Jesus coming toward him & declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, & it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend & remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen & have testified that this is the Son of God." ³⁵The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, & they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned & saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹He said to them, "Come & see." They came & saw where he was staying, & they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak & followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon & said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him & said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does this story connect with Judas' replacement in *Acts 1:15-26*? What can we infer about Jesus' & John's ministries at this point in the story?
2. Compare & contrast St. Peter's "rock solid" confessions in *Matthew 16:13-20* & *John 1:41-42, 21:15-19*. What do you learn? How do they provide a richer, deeper confession when read together?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Building on #2: Jesus gives St. Simon the nickname Peter. What nickname would he give you?
4. The word often translated abide is used in *John 1:38 (stay), 39 (remain), 5:38, 6:56, 8:31 (continue), 14:17, 15:4-10*. It's also used in the epistles of *1 John 2:6, 14, 24, 27, 28, 3:6, 9, 14, 15, 17, 24; 4:13, 15, 16; & 2 John 1:2, 9*. What point is St. John making? Use your study notes. How well are you doing at "abiding" in Jesus, the true vine & his Word? What needs to change in your everyday life so that you abide more?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Somewhere in your everyday life someone told you about Jesus & Holy Baptism. Think back & name the 5 most important "tellers" about the subjects in your life. What did they teach you & how? What made their words matter to you so much? Give thanks to God for them in prayer. *Note: focus specifically on verbal aspects of their witness to you, on what was said to you about Jesus & about Baptism.*
6. How can you continue what they began in your life for someone else? Who needs you to tell them about Jesus & Holy Baptism? Make a list of 5 people & begin praying for the opportunity.

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Second Sunday after Epiphany
Series: What's Up with Baptism?

01.15.23
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Tell About It

Judge Ziglar wrote, *"Timid salesmen have skinny kids."*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [Andrew] first found his brother Simon [Peter] & said to him,
"We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). (v41)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

In the Word was life, & the life was the light of all people. (*John 1:4*)

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