



**Meditation for The Third Sunday after the
Epiphany
January 24, 2021**

Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." [Mark 1:17]

*For God alone my soul in silence waits;
truly, my hope is in him. [Psalm 62:6]*

A great spiritual teacher became renowned for his wisdom, and people came from far and wide seeking his counsel. It is said that one day God once sought his advice: "I want to play a game of hid-and-peek with humankind. I've asked my Angels what the best place is to hide in. Some say the depth of the ocean. Others the top of the highest mountain. Others still the far side of the moon or a distant star. What do you suggest?" The spiritual teacher answered: "Hide in the human heart. That's the last place they will think of."

Anthony De Mello, One Minute Wisdom [Doubleday, 1984, p. 44]

God is hidden in our hearts--in our own hearts, and in the hearts of the people we meet each day. Jesus calls us to see this hidden God in each other. Over and over again the Gospel of Mark shows Jesus seeing God hidden in the human heart. He seeks out people who are forgotten, lost, or feared. When he says "Follow me" he calls us to see and share in God's hidden work. When he heals, he reveals the God hidden in broken bodies.

Indeed, Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, and the sons of Zebedee by interrupting them while they are fishing and mending their nets. Who else would have thought of them? Who else would have seen God hidden in these ordinary men, on this ordinary day, interrupting their very ordinary labor? We are told that all the men respond to Jesus *immediately*. Their response does not suggest that they are fickle and restless. It shows what happens when we see and welcome the God hidden in the people we meet. It shows the "baptism of the Spirit" that John promised in Jesus.

All of us are restless seekers who long for the peace and understanding that can be found only by finding God. In our baptism, we are granted the ability to discover God's hiding places. We are not here to please people; we are here to gather them, to see the God hidden in their hearts. Indeed, we are called to hold each other accountable for being persons in whom God is hidden. When we can do that, we will be able to say with the psalmist *Mercy and truth have met together; *righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring up from the earth.* [Psalm 85:10-11]