

Come, Journey with Me

Luke Ch 5 v 1 - 11

This short reading is often subtitled “**Jesus Calls the First Disciples**” and a complete list of the twelve can be found in Luke Ch 6 v 12 – 16. In the Good News Bible we read that having been called by Jesus the fishermen left everything and **followed** Him. In the similar passage in Matthew they **went** with Him. In many ways, I think, they were asked to **journey with Him** and so that is our starting point this month. As today's disciples Jesus asks us to “Come Journey with Me”.

As we are all aware it was not an easy journey then and history has proved it has not become any easier over the years. “The journey of life can be easy can be hard” (a quote from the September paper) – a real mystery tour! As we approach the beginning of Lent and the weeks leading up to Easter, the journey becomes even more difficult. For the first disciples it probably did mean leaving all behind and I have this vision of a small group of men walking the dusty roads, from village to village, following Jesus and learning from Him. Today whether by land, sea or air our journey perhaps takes on a different nature. We are not asked to leave all our physical life behind but rather to take on a new spiritual aspect to our lives – one that passes on God's word through our actions and how we interact with others and one that communicates to others a better way of living. We should adopt a lifestyle that leaves behind all thoughts of putting self first and of working for wealth or honour. Indeed Jesus taught just the opposite. We then need to learn these things from him, as the disciples did. We also learn that through him our lives have a strong base, that we are never alone and that we are safe in his love.

Why does Jesus ask us to journey with him? The answer, of course, is because he loves each one of us and through that love he wants us too to become “fishers of men” and share our joy with others. As with fishermen then and now there are many dangers to face but an ample reward at the end of the day. Even today fishermen must be patient and persevering, often having to face danger if the prospects are good and above all to trust God when open to the elements out at sea. We too must employ these same attitudes when following Jesus. Throughout His life Jesus had good times along with the bad. He spent quiet times with close friends like Mary and Martha and he went to parties and weddings. In a similar manner we go through different phases on our life's journey. His journey was not all doom and gloom and neither should our lives miss out on fun and games. However, we all need something to aim for, a goal in life and something to work towards. Jesus remained focused to the end so why shouldn't we too remain focused on him. I know very little about fishing but I have visited The Holy Land and had the amazing experience of taking communion on Lake Galilee. I did not encounter one of the fierce storms that are frequent in the area and the peace and calm of that time gently floating the middle of the lake will stay with me always. Let us hope that that peace of knowing Jesus and being one with him will calm the storms in all our lives this Easter time.

For Discussion

1. I'm sure you are all familiar with the “Footsteps” poem. If you can, read it again and discuss how it has been relevant in your lives.
2. How does our response to Jesus' call today differ to that of the disciples?

Diane Thornton