



John 1:35-46 New Revised Standard Version

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, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and 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 and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see."

Notes _____

"To be saints is not a privilege for the few. But a vocation for everyone."

-Pope Francis

Halos. What comes to mind when you hear that word? Maybe you think of a small member of the citrus family which is sweet to snack upon. Perhaps it brings to mind a piece of wire wrapped in tinsel from a Christmas pageant long ago. Or maybe, you envision that ring which encircles the head of a biblical figure in Christian artwork. Halos have come to be associated with things which are "heavenly" whether in the case of fruit or someone whose life might be described as "holy."



It is this latter category upon which I wish to focus some time this morning. Every year on November 1, the Christian faithful acknowledge what has come to be known as "All Saints' Day." It is a special day (and not because it is my birthday) on which we consider the lives of those faithful men and women who have paved a way for us in the Christian faith. We remember the contributions of those who poured into our lives through both words and actions, and embodied for us what it means to live the life of Christ.

The sermon text for today is not customarily associated with All Saints' Day or Sunday. In fact, it receives more attention because of its focus upon Jesus' invitation to discipleship. John's account is different from those reported in the other Gospels in that it describes individuals who were called and then invited others to join them in following Jesus. Chances are pretty good that someone had such an effect upon your life. That is to say they introduced you to the Son of God and enabled you to become acquainted with this Jesus for yourself. It may have been a parent, grandparent, pastor, youth leader, Sunday school teacher, or someone else. Such people probably operated "under the radar" and did not need any notoriety for their ministries. They lived the truth of the Gospel in a manner which impacted our decision for Christ. May it be our desire to do the same. Our lives are to:

1. **Spend time with the One whom we wish to exemplify.**
2. **Serve as a signpost which points others to God.**
3. **Share in the nurture of those coming to the faith.**

Prayer Pebble: Lord, I thank you for the saints who have helped shape my life in Christ. As I recall those who have gone before me, enable me to serve a similar function in the lives of others who are coming along. Amen.