

January 15 2017 Year A Second Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture Lesson

Psalm 40:1-11

Isaiah 49:1-7

John 1:29-42

Sermon *The Call*

Most of us here today are retired, having worked at some occupation to get us to this point. When you were a child, did you know what you wanted to be when you grew up? Is that what you ended up doing when you became an adult? When I was a young person, I wanted to be a hair dresser or beautician. One day I even practiced being a beautician on two of my sisters, giving them haircuts. Heidi's hair turned out okay thanks to the natural curl and body her hair had. Shaun, on the other hand, didn't fare so well, with her straight hair. Needless to say, I was in trouble and that episode pretty much shot down what I thought I wanted to do when I grew up. As I grew older, what I wanted to do as an adult changed many times. I never felt a definite "call" to what I was supposed to be but my life has led me to this point. Each part of the journey felt like it was what I was supposed to be doing at that time. So maybe I have had many "calls". I know there are people who as a child knew exactly what they wanted to be and that is what they became. Their "call" was heard loud and clear from that young age and was acted upon. It was what they were supposed to do with their lives.

In the children's lesson we learned that each of us is a unique individual that God crafted even before we were born. Like the prophet said in the passage from Isaiah that Nina read, God called him before he was born and while he was in his mother's womb, God named him. God has a plan for us before we are even born. Because we are all unique, each of us has different strengths to use when we are called in our regular lives. If we are called to be a doctor for instance, we have the attributes needed to do the hard work that is required to get that degree and then put it into practice. God has given us what we need to accomplish that "call."

I think it is the same in our spiritual lives. Because we are all unique, we have different strengths to accomplish the spiritual call that God gives us. Some of us are better at talking, some are better at working with our hands, some are better at praying. As long as we use our individual strengths that we have we can be the people that God calls us to be as Christians and as a church family. We can do God's work as individuals and then we can make a bigger impact by how we do

God's work as a church family. I think our church is very good at ministering to those in our community in need. When the annual reports come out next week make sure you read the Missions committee report to see all that our church did last year. Today the coffee hour is a potato bake to raise money for the Missions committee so that they can start their work for this year.

I want to share with you an example of how working together accomplishes the goals that are set before you. As some of you know yesterday was the annual crab feed for the Soroptimist club. It is our biggest fund raiser for the year and wouldn't be possible without all the help of the people involved. Each of them has their individual strengths and uses them to do the tasks they are best suited for. By doing this, the crab feed was well attended by the people who buy the tickets and come eat the food provided because they know it will be a good event.

It was another successful event and the club will be able to use the money raised to help young women in our community and throughout the world. And by the way, we have leftover crab for sale if anyone is interested. There was talk last night about the loaves and fish/crab and how the amount of crab seemed to be multiplying. We thought it might have something to do with the event being at the Catholic Church but the fish and loaves story is for another day.

So know that all of us are wonderful, unique individuals that God has created with certain strengths or a call if you will. Use those strengths to your best abilities. Great things will happen.