

Lectio for Mass
October 3 2018

A. Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey...

I will follow you wherever you go...

Answer: I don't have anything to offer you. I don't have any kind of belonging to guarantee a future for you.

Foxes have dens

Birds have nests

... the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head.

B. Follow me

Let me go first to take care of my family

You go and proclaim the Kingdom of God

C. I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home

Answer of Jesus:

If you look to what was left behind and at the same time want to follow me, to work for me, you are not right for the Kingdom of God.

In other words, being with Jesus and at the same time feeling nostalgia of my past for whatever reason it might be desired. Affections – belongings – dreams – things – experiences.

We don't know the end of these three vocational stories, what we know today is what Jesus requires from us to be followed. Jesus wants us to be aware of:

- 1- He doesn't have anything to offer me because of my answer to his call: It is not an issue of "having;" it is an issue of "being." The only treasure is Jesus himself. Is he, himself, enough?
- 2- Jesus is first.
- 3- Nothing in the middle. I cannot follow Jesus and at the same time to keep my own agenda.

Conclusion:

The reason of our priestly vocation and our priestly life is Jesus and his kingdom. To use the words of the Nuncio Pierre: My experience of knowing Jesus and loving him as THE FIRST is the reason of our authority in serving His kingdom.

This morning I wouldn't like to be a fundamentalist; but I want to remind you and to myself that Jesus is the only one who can explain the "Why" we are here. Do you want to follow him? Has he called you? His call is the first. Then, our responsibility is to put the means the Church gives us to answer his call, following him closely.