



*Reflection for Sunday, January 17, 2021*

*1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19; Psalms 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10; 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20, John 1:35-42*

Today's readings introduce us to two men who received a special calling from the Lord, Samuel the prophet and Peter, the leader of the Apostles. Samuel had been dedicated to the Lord from infancy. At the time of our first reading, young Samuel was servant to the high priest, Eli. The Lord revealed to Samuel in his sleep that he had been chosen to serve God in a unique manner. It took three tries before Samuel realized that the Lord was calling to him. We may be very like Samuel. We go about our daily chores, not thinking of the Lord. From a spiritual point of view, we are as asleep as Samuel was. If the Lord calls us, perhaps in the voice of another person, we may not hear Him. Yet, if we recognize His voice and respond, what wonders will result!

Like Samuel, Simon the fisherman was performing his daily duties when the Lord called him to a special service. His introduction to Jesus came from his brother, Andrew, who had been a follower of John the Baptist until John pointed out Jesus and referred to Him as the Lamb of God. Andrew recognized Jesus as the Messiah and called his brother, Simon, to meet Him. Jesus saw something special in Simon and changed his name to Cephas, meaning Rock. We call him Peter, from the Greek translation of his name. In Scripture, when the Lord gives a person his name, it means that that person has been chosen for a unique service. We think of Abram who became Abraham, Jacob, who became Israel, John the Baptist and Jesus Himself. By this change of name, Peter was called to be the rock-solid foundation of the Church, in spite of his personal inadequacy. Through the centuries, his successors, the Popes, have served as the rocks that support the Church, in spite of their own inadequacies. They act as unifiers, giving us a focal point to remind us that we are all one in the faith.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that as Christians, our bodies are part of the body of Christ and as such, temples of the Holy Spirit. As a result, it matters what we do with our bodies. When we defile them through immoral conduct, we reject the sacrifice of His own body that Jesus made. Let us resist the temptations all around us and keep our bodies free of defilement.

*- John Linge*