

Who am I?

What do we want?

Why are we here?

What are we called to do?

Basic questions humans have been seeking since time began

Even before time began

Angels asked the same things

Some sought the answers away from God

And sin became a reality

Our first parents asked the same questions

But they sought the answers in the wrong places

And sin entered the world

Throughout history

Men and women have sought the answers

Many have found the answer

Many have turned down the wrong path

Many have found the path

But struggle to stay on it

There are also those that never ask these questions

They are too busy with work

Too busy with distractions

Too busy to think of anything beyond the here and now

But for those that do search

The answer is found in Jesus Christ

It is within Jesus' answer to Andrew and John:

Come and see

What are you looking for?

What am I looking for?

We can become confused when we seek answers away from Christ

Because we see what we are

We know what we have done in the past

But Christ goes beyond that

Jesus became man to show us who we are

To show us who we can become

He knows our past

But he points us to the future

It doesn't matter if we are a child like Samuel

An old man like Eli

Or somewhere in the middle like the apostles

Christ speaks to our hearts, and calls them to be like his

But for us to hear, we have to get sin out of the way

St Paul tells us

Our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit

He was writing to the Corinthians
A society that has much in common with the modern world
Sexual promiscuity was prominent and accepted as normal
But St Paul tells us our bodies do matter
Jesus Christ became human
He was incarnate; he had a physical body
He has a resurrected human body
This gives our bodies a special dignity in God's eyes
They are temples of the Holy Spirit
They are the way we offer sacrifice and prayer
We enter into a special union with Christ in and through our bodies
They are the means by which we consume His body and Blood
God Himself dwells in us
We use our bodies to glorify God
And as temples, we are called to keep them pure

When our hearts are free from sin
We can more clearly hear the voice of God
Our readings have 2 examples of how we hear God's voice
For some, they hear Him directly
Like Samuel, we need to have an open, attentive heart
To be ready to respond if this grace comes our way

But even here, it is good to bring this to another
To someone like Eli, who can help our understanding
For most, though, we are pointed to God
Like John the Baptist instructing his disciples
Behold, the Lamb of God
He points out the Christ to Andrew and John
Most of us were brought to Christ by others
By our parents, bringing us for baptism
Where the Christian seeds are planted
By our teachers, our community and family
Whether we are actively studying
Being in a catechism class
Reading the lives of the saints
Sometimes we simply watch others
Seeing how they react to events in their lives
We are given witnesses
Others who point us to Christ
Then, when we know him, we bring others to him

So how do we answer these basic questions of humanity?
Who am I?
Why am I here?

What am I to do with my life?

The old Baltimore catechism has an answer

We are called to know God

To love Him

To serve Him

To be happy with him in this life and the next

This is a call to be a disciple

A follower of Christ

It is a call to each and every one of us

It is not something for only a few special people

Look at the first disciples

Normal, everyday, hardworking people

People who heard the invitation to follow God

Whether they heard it directly like Samuel

Or whether the way was pointed out to them

The invitation comes when and where God desires

It comes in the ordinariness of everyday life

It might even seem too ordinary

We might even miss it if we are not attentive

But when it comes, we are called to discern

Like Samuel spending time with Eli

The disciples going to Christ's home

Spending time with him

He tells Andrew and John

Come and you will see

He invites us to spend time with him in prayer

To open our hearts to him

So we can see who we are

So we can see who we are called to be

When we do this, there will be a transformation

We will experience a conversion

We will be able to say the words of Samuel

Speak Lord, for your servant is listening

We become his disciple

To our family

To our friends

To our community

We begin to follow where he leads

Because we know in the end

He is leading us home

Lord, where are you staying?

Come, and see