

**Fifth Sun C  
The Call... An Adventure**

**Introduction...**

Today we continue with our Christian Story... our story tells us what life all about?

Our culture tells us that life is all about being happy and secure and fulfilled. How do we accomplish this? By buying stuff... cars, jewelry, nice clothes, beer – lite beer, that is – wonderful vacations... all of this will make us happy. Life is all about being happy, entertained consumers...

In order to get these things we will need money... the more money we have the happier we will be.

Let me say immediately that all of this is not bad!

But, are these the ultimate values of life?

Will all of these things make us happy and fulfilled?

TV commercials seem to imply that...

Oh, and we have to have it our way! That will be sure to make us happy.

This is not our Christian Story... It's part of our Cultural Story in 21<sup>st</sup> century America.

**Refrain... If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

**I Our Christian Story  
Advent and Christmas**

Our Christian Story is different. We believe the world is not just about us. We believe that our loving Creator God, whom we call Father, made us and our world.

Then our world broke... look around you – there is still plenty of evidence that our world is still broke... not entirely... we are not damned! But there is much brokenness in our world.

Our God has not abandoned us.

In the fullness of time God sent God's very own beloved Son to help heal our broken world. The world broke because we tried to do it our way and not God's way... we tried to be gods. We still try to be god!

But our loving Creator Father sent his beloved Son... that's the Christian Story that Advent and Christmas cover.

**Jan to Lent**

Now we are into the part of our Christian Story which describes how God's beloved Son Jesus began his public ministry...

a ministry of bringing God's compassion and healing to our broken world... and revealing to us how God wants us to live and act on our life's journey.

Jesus shows us God's way.

Besides showing us God's love for us and God's way of living, Jesus chooses disciples... those who will carry on Jesus' mission and teaching after he is gone.

We come to today's Gospel...

Actually, all of today's readings focus on God's call to individuals to live God's way and proclaim God's loving will to a broken world. We read about Isaiah, Paul and Peter. God called each of them.

Notice the professional areas they covered between them...

Isaiah is a politician in the service of the royal court of King Uzziah.

Paul is a theological academic who was trained as a Pharisee and even persecuted the disciples of Jesus.

Peter is a simple fisherman – a hard working common man.

Three very different people, but each called by God to be a part of God's Story.

Each experienced a significant change in their lives as they humbly said "Yes" to God's call.

What does this mean for us today?

The issue in our own world is not that God is no longer calling people to walk in God's way... to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

The problem is that many of us chose to see the world only from the perspective of our own opinions and desires.

We don't hear God's call.

We miss opportunities to serve God and His Church because they do not meet our expectations.

**Refrain... If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

## **II How Is God Calling You?**

How is God calling you?

Admiral Drake in the 1800's invited anyone in England to sail with him on his ship. He promised that he would show them wonders beyond their imagination, precious sights and unbelievable vistas and marvels. No one accepted his invitation.

Then Admiral Drake invited anyone in England to brave storms and high winds, perils and dangers with him and his worthy crew. During this adventurous trip he would show them wonders beyond their imagination, precious sights and unbelievable vistas and marvels. People flocked to join him on this *adventure*, brave the elements and enjoy the rewards.

An *adventure*... Is your life an adventure... or same ol, same ol? Jesus calls each of us to an adventure...

a life of risks and dangers, of beauty and wonder.

Each day... every day... if we would open our eyes and discover God's call today...

The Psalmist writes: *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

We are on an adventure with Jesus each day of our lives.

How will God use you today? ...

in your family, in your neighborhood, on your job, in your parish? How will God use you?

Are there dangers? You bet...

- Your own temptations to selfishness and self-centeredness
- Your fears and doubts that you won't be up to what God calls you to do
- Your spinning your wheels, feeling as if you are going nowhere fast, in a rat race and in a dark and meaningless world
- The difficulty of hearing God's call in the midst of a noisy, stormy world
- The areas of your life where you need healing and strengthening...

Yes, you are on an *adventure*...

Are you familiar with the life of the Prophet Isaiah?

Are you familiar with the life and experiences of the Apostles Peter or Paul?

They were not perfect. They made mistakes. They had to change some things about their lives. They had to allow God to purify them and transform their hearts...

How do you need transformed by God who calls you this day?

How does your heart need changed?

How will you allow God to use you this day?

Say the prayer of St. Francis today... then watch what happens!

Let me tell you a story... a story about a woman who allowed God to use her...

### **The Nursing Home Angel**

I remember once I was giving a Lenten parish Mission in one of our suburban parishes.

I was touched by a one of Jesus' disciples... one of God's "little people".

She's not a celebrity. She's not one of the rich and famous. She's a widow, who lives in the parish, who goes to Mass daily, and who takes communion to the people in a nursing home in her parish.

I accompanied her to that nursing home one morning,  
a cold and windy winter morning...  
and for me it became a *journey* up the mountain  
with Jesus...  
I see people transfigured momentarily  
in the presence of compassion and love.

The woman brings communion -  
brings Jesus, to the old and frail in the nursing home -  
she knows all of their names, and they know hers.  
When she enters a room the people in the room look up,  
see her,  
and many of their faces light up with a smile of recognition.  
She goes to the persons receiving communion,  
gives them a hug and a kiss on the cheek...  
and greets them by name.  
She introduces each one to me.  
I tell them who I am and that I am privileged to bring them communion on  
this day.  
We pray together... share a bit of Scripture, say the Our Father... then they  
receive the Body of Christ...  
Afterwards we hold hands, I bless them, and we chat a bit when it is  
possible.... Then we move on to another resident.  
The woman I accompanied told me how she felt so blessed to be able to  
serve these little people of God, our brothers and sisters in the family of  
God.  
She seemed to glow in the presence of these residents.  
And so many of them responded with a smile and with gratitude that she  
would visit them and bring Jesus to them...  
You probably won't read about this woman in tomorrow's newspaper, or  
hear what about what she does on the radio.  
But to me, this is what life is all about...  
this is what our journey and call from God are about...  
This woman's life is an adventure...  
Each day is worthwhile for her.

**Refrain... If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

**Conclusion...**

We are called and graced by God to walk in the footsteps of Jesus,  
continuing Jesus' work in our world, allowing ourselves to be God's  
instruments of love in our world. This is an adventure.  
This is **our** call... this is what **our** life's *journey* is all about.

This is our Christian Story...

Life is not about being an entertained consumer...

it's about an adventure.

As we continue with this Eucharist let's ask God to help us hear his call today.

At communion ask Jesus to strengthen us and help to hear and cherish God's call this day.

**Refrain... If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**