

Epiphany---Come and See. . .

Look it up. What does epiphany actually mean? Of course there will be several possible definitions, but here's one that caught my attention — an immediate and meaningful understanding of something. Surprising. Sudden. Profound. An aha moment.

Have we thought of Epiphany in this way? The Gospel lesson (John 1:43-51) for this Sunday kind of upsets the applecart when it comes to our expectations of Epiphany. We tend to expect that Epiphany is about the revelation of Jesus. About finding Jesus, witnessing Jesus in various illuminating moments. It's not supposed to be about us being found ourselves. But John's Gospel invites us to imagine that these can be one and the same. That is, finding Jesus in those unexpected moments, is also when we "find" ourselves— who we are, who Jesus calls us to be. Just maybe we will have that "epiphany" of our own faith story, our own journey of belief. The Gospel lesson helps us maintain a connection between Christmas and Epiphany, between incarnation and revelation.

What is revealed is what it means that God became human. That God entered into our world, no longer satisfied just to be *with us* but now has to be *one of us*. I think when that happens, we change too. Our humanity changes. Suddenly, our identity—who we see ourselves to be—is no longer the same because we have seen God in who we are. Maybe this Epiphany takes on a mirror effect for us. When we experience these revelatory moments of Jesus, we simultaneously see something about ourselves. That's relationship. Epiphany cannot be all one sided. It can't just be "oh look, Jesus, cool. Wow." You then have to ask, so what? What does this mean for me as a follower of Christ? It changes my life!

Epiphany is a short season. Not much time to reflect what you want to find out about yourself and what you don't. Expect to discover many things about Jesus. But in the process, anticipate learning something about yourself. We can't dare assume that we are unchanged by what we witness. Sometimes the change is monumental. Sometimes incremental. Either way, something will happen. Something epiphanous!

The season of Epiphany invites us to embark on a self-reflective journey. Jesus says to his followers, "follow me", come and see." This Epiphany season, see Jesus. See God. But also, see yourself. All of which might truly be epiphanies. And maybe not what we expected!

"Come and See. . ."

Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sunday 10 AM