



## CALLED TO HOLINESS AND DISCIPLESHIP!

During a Christmas pageant rehearsal, the names of two children were drawn out of a hat to be the camel. The costume called for two people approximately the same in height, but one child was considerably smaller than the other. The director told the smaller child they'd have to wait and see, to which the child began clamoring, "I'm big enough! You picked me! I'm big enough!"

In the first reading and in the Gospel today, we read of two people, Isaiah and Peter, who at first do not think they are "big enough" to be up to the challenge placed before them. But invitations become mandates, and both men become "big enough."

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send?'" When a family is evicted because of unpaid utility bills, whom will God send? Who will raise up a cry when an elderly person lives on in fear and loneliness, when a neighborhood is endangered by drug dealers, when a child is abused? We often hear that no one can do everything, but each of us can do something. If my voice does not cry out for fairness and just actions, then I give support to the silence that allows injustice.

"Here I am," I said, "send me." Unlike Peter, Isaiah understands at once that having clean lips has made him entirely clean for a new mission. Most of us would look for an excuse as to why we should not be considered "big enough"; we're too young, too old, too poor, too rich. We shy away from being called to holiness. We don't want the coal pressed to our lips or the net taken from our hands. If I agree to be sent as a disciple of Jesus, life will never be the same.

"When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him." The word of God must be carried forward to a new generation, even if the carriers are ordinary people like Peter the fisherman. The Lord who sends us does not require that we be perfect, but he does expect us to leave other things behind and make a commitment to discipleship. We must mean it when we say we are open to growing in holiness and discipleship. We must be "big enough" to follow the Lord unreservedly.

The call came at our baptism. The opportunity is right at hand. Whom can I send? Who will be "big enough"? Having renewed our commitment in the Creed, and nourished at the Lord's table, we go forth to love and serve the Lord in our daily lives.

**They left everything  
and followed him.**



*Jesus directs Simon to take his boat into deep water for a miraculous catch of fish. Simon and his partners leave all to follow Jesus (Luke 5:1-11).*