

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time A

- OK – what’s with all this Zebulon and Naphtali business?
 - Abraham → Isaac → Esau & Jacob → 12 sons (Zebulon & Naphtali)
 - 12 sons sell Joseph into slavery
 - Eventually Joseph becomes Prime Minister & 11 brothers go beg for food
 - Jacob (now Israel) and all the brothers go live in Egypt → become slaves
 - Moses → they are freed and return
 - Zebulon and Naphtali take up the northern regions of Israel
 - Israel gradually becomes more and more sinful
 - Invasions of Assyrians and Babylonians begin → North bears brunt
- NOW – we get to the 1st reading – returning from exile Isaiah prophesies:
 - First the Lord degraded Zebulon & Naphtali
 - BUT – in the end – Glory – Anguish has taken wing
 - Out of darkness into light
 - From a place of gloom into light
 - Joy – rejoicing – the yoke is smashed – Alleluia!
- THEN – the Gospel
 - Jesus hears J the B has been arrested
 - He leaves Nazareth (home with Mary)
 - Went to Capernaum to live in the region of Zebulon & Naphtali
 - And the prophecy of Isaiah in 1st reading have new meaning
 - The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light
 - Those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death a light has shown
 - So what is the light Jesus brings? Call to REPENT
 - Change your life – abandon sin – come from darkness into light
 - How do you do that? FOLLOW JESUS
 - *So the next thing He does is call disciples*
 - NOW WATCH THIS
 - Peter, Andrew, James and John leave everything ON PURPOSE
 - They make a decision to leave one kind of life, for another with J.
- In our lives – we are born – baptized – 1st communion – confirmation – married
 - We call ourselves Christians because of all this
 - We call ourselves disciples – we come to church, we’re good people
 - Have we really surrendered to follow J like 1st disciples? ON PURPOSE
 - We need to decide to live like disciples, and follow J. ON PURPOSE
 - When we do the 1st reading is fulfilled in us **“People who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who dwell in land of gloom a light has shown. For You have brought them abundant joy & great rejoicing”**
 - This blessing can be ours – WE can go from darkness to light of KOG
We can come to a new way of life filled with the light of Christ
AND we can bring that light to others

- o Jesus says the KOG is at hand – and it is. Jesus says we can be fishers of men → *Let's go fishing – **for people!** ON PURPOSE*