

January 21-27
The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Church Begins at Home

A Verse for the Week
Jesus said, "Follow me and I will
make you fish for people."
(Mark 1:17)



Daily Readings

SUNDAY'S GOSPEL Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls two sets of brothers to be his disciples: Simon (also known as Peter) and Andrew, and James and John, the sons of Zebedee. Capernaum is about fifteen miles northeast of Jesus' home town of Nazareth.

MONDAY

Genesis 12:1-9

This is the story of the call of Abraham and is a key passage for understanding not only the events of the Old and New Testament, but also current events in the Middle East. God promises Abraham that his descendants will have a special responsibility as God's chosen people, but also promises that the land of Canaan will belong to them. Orthodox Jews believe that this land still belongs to them, a belief that is a complicating factor in Israeli/Palestinian peace negotiations.

TUESDAY

Genesis 45:25—46:7

Just as his grandfather Abraham left his home to answer God's call in a new land, here Jacob (Israel) travels to a new land – Egypt. This passage is toward the end of the long story of Jacob's son, Joseph (ch. 38-50). It explains how Jacob's family came to be living in Egypt instead of Canaan, the land promised to Abraham.

WEDNESDAY

Mark 3:13-19

This is Mark's listing of the twelve disciples. Jesus apparently chose twelve to represent the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew (10:2-4) and Luke (6:12-16) also list the disciples, with some minor variations in the names. This would suggest that the number twelve had greater significance than the individual disciples.

THURSDAY

Proverbs 8:1-21 (22-36)

The book of Proverbs speaks of "wisdom" as a metaphor for God and portrays Wisdom as a woman who invites all to come to learn from her. This is one of several feminine metaphors for God in the Bible. If you read the entire chapter, you see that Wisdom is said to have been present at creation. Compare that to the opening verses of John's gospel about the "Word".

FRIDAY

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The story of Jonah is so short that it's best to read it all, if possible. In these verses, Jonah calls on the people of Ninevah to repent of their evil ways and (much to his chagrin) they respond to the call and do repent! The reason Jonah isn't happy about this is that he doesn't think God should forgive these people who had destroyed many neighboring nations — they were the Nazis of the ancient world.

SATURDAY

Mark 1:21-28 (Tomorrow's Gospel)

The Epiphany continues as Jesus is revealed as a healer.

Catechism Corner

(from Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*)

The Third Petition

Your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

What is this?

In fact, God's good and gracious will comes about without our prayer, but we ask in this prayer that it may also come about in and among us.

How does this come about?

Whenever God breaks and hinders every evil scheme and will—as are present in the will of the devil, the world, and our flesh—that would not allow us to hallow God's name and would prevent the coming of his kingdom, and instead whenever God strengthens us and keeps us steadfast in his Word and in faith until the end of our lives. This is God's gracious and good will.