

He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not shrug back because we think that we have little or nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Is there anything holding you back from giving yourself unreservedly to God?

Memorial of Sts. Simon and Jude

Ephesians 2:19-22

Psalm 19:2-3, 4-5

Luke 6:12-19 In these days he went out to the mountain to pray; and all night he continued in prayer to God. (13) And when it was day, he called his disciples, and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles; (14) Simon, whom he named Peter, and Andrew his brother, and James and John, and Philip, and Bartholomew, (15) and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot, (16) and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor. (17) And he came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; (18) and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. (19) And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all.

Meditation by Don Schwager

What is God's call on your life? When Jesus embarked on his mission he chose twelve men to be his friends and apostles. In the choice of the twelve, we see a characteristic feature of God's work: Jesus chose very ordinary people. They were non-professionals, who had no wealth or position. They were chosen from the common people who did ordinary things, had no special education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these men, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. When the Lord calls us to serve, we must not shrug back because we think that we have little or nothing to offer. The Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it for greatness in his kingdom. Is there anything holding you back from giving yourself unreservedly to God?

Wherever Jesus went the people came to him because they had heard all the things he did. They were hungry for God and desired healing from their afflictions. In faith they pressed upon Jesus to touch him. As they did so power came from Jesus and they were healed. Even demons trembled in the presence of Jesus and left at his rebuke. Jesus offers freedom from the power of sin and oppression to all who seek him with expectant faith. When you hear God's word and consider all that Jesus did, how do you respond? With doubt or with expectant faith? With skepticism or with confident trust? Ask the Lord to increase your faith in his saving power and grace.

"Lord Jesus Christ, you are the Son of God and the Savior of the world. In flame my heart with a burning love for you and with an expectant faith in your saving power. Take my life and all that I have as an offering of love for you, who are my All."

Written by Bobot Apit

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Supplementary Reading

WITH NEW EyES

{xtypo_quote} I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to the childlike. – Luke 10:21 {/xtypo_quote}

I was exhausted from cooking. It was New Year's Day and we had a family lunch. I was resting on the sofa when my three-year-old nephew approached me, armed with children's books. "Tita, read to me," he said. I looked at the books and realized they were fairy tales. I groaned silently. All I wanted to do was put my feet up and rest. But my little nephew's eyes lit up at the idea of opening the books. I may have heard the fairy tales hundreds of times but my nephew was going to hear these stories for the first time. To him, everything was new.

I shook my head as I realized how we adults take many things for granted. Things that used to delight us as children bore us now. Many times, we look at the world with tired eyes. God reveals Himself to us every day, but with tired eyes, we miss so much!

At that moment, I felt God was revealing Himself to me through my nephew — reminding me to be more loving. God was telling me to open my eyes and my heart because He was in this child. I smiled at the little boy with the armful of books in front me. I motioned to a spot beside me and asked him to sit. I flipped to the first page and began, "Once upon a time..." Cess Cosico

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REFLECTION:

How has God revealed Himself to you today? Look at the world like a child, with new eyes.

Lord, make my eyes and heart childlike.

Thought of the Day

While prayer alone can be arduous, the beauty of prayer with others is an incomparable support to the inner life. By means of simple words, hymns, songs, it communicates a discreet and silent joy.

For meditation/readings of the previous days/months , please click any of the following links:

<http://his-ways-better-than-our-ways.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.mabuhayradio.com/sections/the-daily-bread.html>

<http://butuangularforum.org/cgi-bin/dboard/YaBB.pl?num=1229339492/220>

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GOD BLESS US ALL!

O Theos Na Mas Evlogisi!

PRAY

as if everything depends on **HIM** **ACT**

as if everything depends on **YOU**.

<http://www.tlig.org/en/messages/>

Daily Mass and Gospel [Meditation Broadcast \(Tagalog\) thru DWX-25 \(Sample Time\) slide 182](http://www.tlig.org/en/meditation-broadcasts/tegalog-25-phil-18-mp3-182) this link:

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