

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year B January 15, 2012 – Fr. Gerald Haemmerle

I recently saw the movie *The Descendants*, starring George Clooney, a film I found most interesting. In the beginning of the film George's wife is in a serious boating accident, and is slowly dying in the hospital. He has been a rather distant husband and father to his two daughters. The film shows him slowly growing into a real father to those girls.

We usually think that it takes something dramatic, something extraordinary to wake us up, to help us change, to help us realize how God is calling us. I think this time of year and our readings today give us a different picture.

We have been celebrating the exciting time of Christmas, remembering the Incarnation, God becoming man, the Epiphany, God revealing Himself to the world. In about six weeks we will begin the sober season of Lent, followed by the glorious season of Easter. But this Sunday we begin the season of ordinary time. And we are in that season for two thirds of the year. During this season we are not remembering the beginning or the end of Jesus' life on earth, but rather the public life of Jesus, His calling of the disciples, his preaching and parables, his miracles, and his interaction with the people of his day. There is nothing ordinary about that. God continues to speak to us during this ordinary time and in the ordinary events of our lives. That is what our readings are about today.

Our first reading is most beautiful. Samuel is a youngster who was being raised by Eli, his mentor, in the temple. One night God calls him three times, and each time he ran to Eli, who finally realized that it was God calling him, and so he told him what to do. When God called him again, he responded, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Our reading ends today saying that Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him.

Do we listen to the Lord in the ordinary times of our lives, or is it only at extraordinary times that we think He speaks to us? Do we take the time to pray, to be quiet before the Lord? Do we say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

Our gospel is equally beautiful. Jesus must have seemed rather ordinary, John the Baptist had to point him out to some of his own disciples, "Look, there is the Lamb of God." Only then did they follow him, and when Jesus turned to them, they asked, "Where do you live?" He said, "Come and see". They did, and spent the rest of the day with him, and came to realize what an extraordinary person he was. Their lives forever changed.

Jesus invites us to come and see. He invites us to spend this hour with him, to spend time with him each day. If we do that, we will come to know the Lord, and our lives will be anything but ordinary. Come and see.