

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time “B”
2018**

As a kid – when you get something new – something that you really wanted – well there’s nothing like that first few days. When you finally got a bike of your own – or maybe it was a skateboard or even an American Girl doll that was what you really – really wanted. For a time your life is as good as it can be. You’re riding your bike everywhere – inventing errands to run just so everyone can see your new bike.

But it doesn’t take long before the “newness” wears off. Soon the bike is living behind the storage boxes in the garage. The skateboard is lost in the clutter of the attic – and the doll is packed away by your Mom who’s hoping to give it to you daughter one day. The excitement that these things once brought is traded in for something new and different.

And truth be told this habit follows us into our adult life. The new car that put a smile on our face and a spring in our step is back to being transportation. Apple and Samsung haven’t told us to get excited about a new phone lately – so the one that I waited for and spent more money that I should have on – it’s back to being a way to check my calendar and call my Dad. It really doesn’t make a difference what age we are – it’s really hard to sustain our enthusiasm when the “newness” goes away.

This week Jesus asks Simon and Andrew and James and John to come and follow him. And without any hesitation they leave what they are doing and head out on foot to follow this man they know very little about. James and John actually leave their Dad and the family business without so much as a discussion about what the future might look like. That is how taken and how excited these four are by what they see lying ahead of them with Jesus.

But what happens when the newness wears off? What happens to these people caught up in the excitement surrounding Jesus when it all fades away? Some of that answer we know. Even after seeing miracle after miracle – they doubt that he can feed a crowd of people. They are upset by

him talking to the woman at the well who – suffice it say – lived a sinful life. This bothers them even when they have seen him reach out to sinner after sinner – including them. And finally they one by one leave him to die alone on the cross. Where’s their passion now?

The disciples that so eagerly follow Jesus today will find many days on their journey through life with no excitement at all. And yet they follow Jesus until their lives on this earth are over. And their sustenance comes not in the big exciting moments – but in the small everyday reminders that God is always with them.

That’s true also with you and me. We all get a few days of excitement on this road – the day you graduate from college – get the job you always wanted. The day you get married – have a child – get a good prognosis or the day you walk your daughter down the aisle. Each of these moments and many like them can make us feel on top of the world – can make us feel incredibly blessed. But when the newness wears off – when our day to day is more mundane – that’s when we have to look around. God is still in our lives – even when those moments are over.

We find him in the everyday. The smile of a stranger – the laughter of a child – the unexpected call from a friend who is far away. God is present in the neighbor who lets you know you left your garage door open – in the spouse who tells you that you look great when you feel less than that. Each and every day – God is walking all around us giving us signs of his presence. Making sure that the “newness” of his love and forgiveness never wears off.

Look for these signs around you – and just as important – help to be the sign of God’s love to others. May our discipleship be ever new.