**Jesus’ call to Discipleship**

Last week we heard St John the Evangelist’s account of Jesus’ calling of his first disciples, today we hear from St Matthew.

In John’s Gospel we initially see Christ from the perspective of the Baptist, a sole voice proclaiming the holiness Jesus: “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” John had grown up the son of a Priest; he’d given up a life of urban security and reasonable comfort, dedicating his powerful personality to his chosen vocation. He cried out in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the Lord.” he claimed unworthiness even to lose the sandal straps of the one who would be coming. He said of that person: ”I myself did not know him, but I came baptising with water for this reason: that he would be revealed to Israel.” We’re not told the details of John’s baptismal rite; all we know is the outcome, his seeing “The Spirit descending upon Jesus like a dove out of heaven.” Thus the Baptist recognised the Lord for whom he made the way straight – not some brilliant stranger – but his slightly younger cousin, Jesus. Here John is the opposite of an empire builder, he is the epitome of what it means to minister as a servant of God.

Last week we heard how Andrew and another disciple left the Baptiser (as a result of his testimony) to follow Jesus. Today in Matthew’s Gospel, the Baptiser was already imprisoned at Herod Antipas’ fortress high above the Dead Sea at Machaerus, when Andrew and Peter then James and John left their fishing boats on Lake Galilee, to follow Jesus. In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ warm invitation is “Come and see!” in Matthew’s it is: “Follow me!” These were Jesus’ invitations to discipleship.

Seeing who Jesus is, what he stands for, what he is all about, and then following him in faithful service is surely the greatest of all vocations. If you want to know what love is like, if you want to be filled with bread that never perishes, if you want to quench your thirst with living water, if you want to know what God is like, then come and see, come and follow Jesus.

Blessings, Mary

**Quotable quote**

The presence of God will not always fix your problems, but it will clarify your perspective. Steven Furtick.