



Sunday Teaching Guide

Epiphany, Week 2

January 14, 2023

Bible Texts

- Hebrews 4:14-16
- Romans 12:1
- John 1:43-50
- John 14:12-14

Important Terms

- Epiphany: an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure

Sermon Notes

- During this season of Epiphany, we're looking at who Jesus was and what Jesus came to do, and this idea of service by a priest was one of the ways the authors of the Bible talked about Jesus. The writer of Hebrews described Jesus as the high priest, the leader of the liturgy.
- Through God's grace, we experience and receive the invitation of the love of the Father, the gift of the life, death, and resurrection of the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit to live in and through us, working through us as we trust, follow, and serve God, invited by Jesus into his mission of rescue, redemption, and restoration. We have all been given this invitation. No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, you're invited to come and worship. Our invitation for others to come and see should be because we were invited to come and see, and when we did, we found love and grace. Come and see Jesus, come and find life.
- In the Gospel of John, Philip invites Nathanael to "come and see" Jesus. When Nathanael arrives, Jesus tells him that he saw him before he started talking to him. Jesus sees us before we are offered an invitation to follow him. We are invited to see his miracles, hear his teaching, and experience his life. You are being invited into a season that is your entire life of worship and service to him. We are invited for our life to be a liturgy of worship as we accept the invitation to follow him as our high priest and accept his grace and power at work in and through us. And as he does that, the world changes, and greater things are done in ways the disciples couldn't have even imagined.

Reflection Questions

- What was your first invitation to hear the good news of Jesus like? Do you remember first hearing about the life and teaching of Jesus? What were your preconceptions at the time? How did your preconceptions compare to your current understanding?
- How is a personal invitation different from a general invitation? How do you feel differently when personally invited?
- How do you think God personally invites people to follow the way of Jesus?
- Ryan said that our lives can be a liturgy of worship. What do you think a life of worship looks like? How much technical worshipping do you think a life of worship consists of? What are some ways of worshipping while not at church?

Prayer for the Week

- O God, you spoke your word and revealed your good news in Jesus, the Christ. Fill all creation with that word again, so that by proclaiming your joyful promises to all nations and singing of your glorious hope to all peoples, we may become one living body, your incarnate presence on the earth. Amen.

Additional Readings

- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- Psalm 139
- 1 Corinthians 6:12-20