

**THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

“Two of the disciples of John (the Baptist) said to Jesus: ‘Rabbi, where are you staying?’  
‘Come and see,’ he replied.”

John 1: 37

Sometimes I wonder whether if I had lived at the time of Jesus if I would have gone out to see him. Do you ever wonder the same thing? Today’s gospel from John has a couple of ordinary Jewish men who draw near to him and ask him where he is staying. He invites them to ‘Come and see.’ They did and they were some of his earliest disciples soon to become apostles. Some of them had gone out to see John the Baptist first and had followed him. But then John was imprisoned and Jesus was just beginning his public ministry. (Remember John saying “He must increase; I must decrease.”)

Would you have asked him? Would you have followed enough to see where he was staying? Would you have listened to his words? Sized him up? Gotten a sense of how he dealt with people and interacted with people? Watched him pray? Seen his moods? And after what you had seen would you have become one of his followers? A disciple? I mean, I look at my life as a priest and still I find myself asking those questions.

But what keeps coming back to me is the gentle way Jesus turns and says simply: ‘Come and see.’ In a way he is saying to them, ‘Don’t so much simply accept my words. Open your eyes. Look at what is happening. Look at what I am doing. And as you see what I am doing and you are close by, make your assessment. Am I the one who is to come or should you look for another?’ I realize that two thousand years have intervened between then and now but somehow part of me thinks that what happened then is what is still happening today. From what I have seen and heard, Jesus really is the One. I would have gone out to him then. I go out to him now. He has the way. He is the Way. He has the words of eternal life. He is the Word of Eternal life. Aren’t those the issues? The question of the week.