

Prayer for Illumination

Jesus, call us out of our complacency and comfort zones; call us into healthy relationships with all people. Amen

Matthew 4:18-22 *Divine Interruption*

As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.

"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people".

At once Simon and Andrew left their nets and followed Jesus.

Going on from there, Jesus saw two brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets.

Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

Amen

I Corinthians 1:10-18 *Quarrels*

The Apostle Paul writes:

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the Name of our Lord Jesus the Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.

What I mean is this:

One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ".

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul?

I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else).

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the Gospel – not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.

Amen