

God calls all of us to fulfill our vocation. He does not sit passively by and wait for us to find Him. He is actively calling us. We may not hear Him, or we may pretend we do not hear Him, but He is calling us to Him, all the same, all of the time. If we choose to hear Him, and truly listen to Him, how do we answer Him? Do we respond like Samuel? "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."

When God invites us to Him, "Come and you will see," do we come and stay at His feet, listening and learning, and then going out to tell others that we have found the Messiah?

All of us, have a vocation. And at its' heart it is all the same vocation which we approach in different ways, as God calls us in different ways.

There was once a minister named Robert Fulghum. And minister Fulghum tells of a time he attended a seminar in Greece. At the end of the last day of the conference, the discussion leader asked if there were any questions. Fulghum jokingly asked him what was the meaning of life. Everyone else chuckled and started getting ready to leave. But the leader held up his hand to ask for silence and then said, "I will answer your question." He took out his wallet and out of his wallet he took a small round mirror about the size of a quarter. And this is what he told everyone "When I was a small child during World War II, we were very poor and we lived in a remote village. One day on the road, I found the broken pieces of a mirror. A German motorcycle had crashed there. I tried to

find all the pieces to put them together, but it wasn't possible, so I kept the largest piece. This one. And by scratching it on a stone, I made it round. I began to play with it as a toy and became fascinated by the fact that I could reflect light into dark places where the sun could never shine. It became a game for me to get light into the most inaccessible places that I could find. I kept the little mirror, and as I grew up, I would take it out at idle moments and continue the challenge of the game.

As I became a man, I grew to understand that this was not just a child's game, but also a metaphor of what I could do with my life. I came to understand that I am not the light or the source of the light. But light - be it truth or understanding or knowledge - is there, and it will only shine in many dark places if I reflect it. I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have, I can reflect light into the dark places of this world - into the dark places of human hearts - and change some things in some people. Perhaps others seeing it happen will do likewise. This is what I am about. This is the meaning of my life."

Do we reflect the light of Christ into the darkness of other people's lives? Will the world be a better place for our having been in it?

This is our vocation, to shine light into the dark places of the world. To ease peoples fear, give them hope. And make our time on this earth, less sad. How we are to do this will be different for

each person. For God gives many gifts but there is one spirit, He calls us in many ways but there is one vocation.

The fathers of the second Vatican Council referred to this as the “universal call to holiness.” They wrote: "The Lord Jesus, the divine Teacher and Model of all perfection, preached holiness of life to each and every one of His disciples of every condition.... The followers of Christ are called by God, not because of their works, but according to His own purpose and grace.... Thus it is evident to everyone, that all the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status, are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity."

In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul takes up one of the conditions that must be met to live this call to holiness, to come to the fullness of Christian life. In order to fulfill our vocation—whether it is the vocation to holiness, which is paramount, or whether it is our own particular vocation, which we discern, we must turn away from all immorality. We must keep our hearts, minds and bodies pure. In doing so, we will always be ready to serve the Lord, to follow him faithfully and to lead others to follow him as well. We have seen all too well what happens when the words of Paul are ignored.

Throughout our Christian history there have been people that take the words of Paul to heart, thousands of faithful souls—Christian men and women who, with God’s grace, have lived pure

and holy lives. Some are canonized saints, many are not, and a few are our own friends and relatives. All of them are beacons, reflecting the light into this dark world. All of them give testimony in their lives that the following of Christ is the path to true happiness and peace.

Our blessed Lord invites each one of us, it would be foolish to refuse so loving an invitation, yet the choice is ours to make. We can choose to follow Jesus, or we can choose to follow our own way. One path leads to happiness and life, the other to misery and death. Make the right choice. Answer his call. Turn from immorality. Follow the Lord.

It is only our fear that holds us back.

A few years ago the CEO of Corning Glass, Wendell Weeks, met with another executive named Steven. Steven was looking for an extra tough glass for a new product his company was developing. After he described what he wanted Steven then proceeded to tell the head of Corning how to make it. But Wendell interrupted and said, "Wait a minute, I know how to make glass, shut up and listen." He then went on to describe a process that Corning had developed for a tough damage-resistant glass they called Gorilla Glass. Steve listened and finally said that's exactly what we are looking for. We need a million units in six months. But Wendell had to admit that they never made the glass, they only developed the process. They didn't have a factory to make it. It was

impossible. At that point Steven, Steve Jobs, leaned towards Wendell and said, "Don't be afraid. You can do this." Mr. Weeks tells people that he just sat there looking at Jobs who kept saying, "Don't be afraid, you can do this." And so finally he picked up the phone, called his manufacturing plant in Kentucky that was making LCD screens at the time, and told them to start the process for making Gorilla Glass. That's why every iPhone and iPad has Gorilla Glass made by Corning.

How often has God asked something of us only to have our fear tell us, "it can't be done?"

Let us make a new commitment to listen to God and act upon what He tells us. You don't have to do this alone. If you feel that perhaps God is calling you to do something but you don't know what, then I invite you to find a mentor, a spiritual director. Samuel had a mentor who helped him to discern his vocation. That was Eli. Eli realized that God was calling the boy and helped him to answer. In much the same way John the Baptist realized it was time for him to decrease and for Jesus to increase. And so he sent his disciples along the path he prepared for them all along. He sent them to follow Jesus. And Andrew, who has the distinction of being the first apostle we know by name, listens to Jesus and is so filled with the Holy Spirit that he can hardly contain himself. How difficult it must have been for him to tear himself away from the master. But he had to. He had to go and tell his brother Simon that he had found the messiah. And when

Andrew brought Simon into the presence of Jesus, when Andrew mentored Simon, the Lord looked at Simon and said, "I know you Simon, son of Jonas. You will be my rock." And the world moved closer to God.

It is easy for us in these times of trial to focus on all that is wrong in the world. But these are just distractions. For most of them, there is little, if anything, you or I can do to change them.

Focus instead on what we can do, on the work before us that God has given us. Despite our fear, each of us is called to shine the light of God into the dark places of the world.

As we prepare ourselves to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist, ask yourself two questions, "What has God been trying to say to me lately?" and "What kind of messenger, what kind of mentor have I been to those around me?"