

February 9, 2008
Saturday after Ash Wednesday

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

Luke 5:27-32

Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And leaving everything behind, he got up and followed him.

I am struck that, in this gospel, the decision to follow Jesus seems to be made in a moment in time. It also seems to be the case for other saints as well. But I am a doubting Thomas when it comes to anything being that easy. While St Paul was knocked off his horse and conversion seemed to come in that one moment in time, I tend to believe that God tried many times to get his attention. That one moment in time that we all know was the most dramatic and finally stopped Paul in his tracks long enough to really hear the call. I believe the same is true for Levi. I believe that God's invitation was always present, but Levi did not hear it until Jesus came along that day and personally issued that particular invitation. I do not know what finally turns hearts of stone to hearts open to hear and see something new. But I do know that the invitation is always present. It is an invitation to go deeper into the mystery of God. This is an invitation to consider as we enter the season of Lent. I picture Jesus personally inviting me to follow him. What do I say? Yes, but...where are we going...let me tie up loose ends first...how about just one more fling...what will I have to do...how will it change my life...?

To become a disciple means a decisive and irrevocable turning to both God and neighbor. What follows from there is a journey, which ... never ends in this life, a journey of continually discovering new dimensions of loving God and neighbor.

~□David J. Bosch, *Transforming Mission*