

Meet and Greet

Intro. At least a few times friends or family have said to us, “There is someone I *want* you to meet.” Maybe it was a good friend of theirs or maybe it was a well-intentioned attempt to match us up. Rarely does someone say, “There is someone you really *need* to meet.”

I. After a few misunderstandings, Eli realized Samuel *needed* to meet God so he told him how to respond, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” After spending the afternoon and evening with the Lord, Andrew knew he *needed* to introduce his brother to Jesus. Right away Andrew felt something stir deeply within his heart. He had to find Simon and tell him what it was: he found the Messiah. We know how brothers and sisters can be. Imagine

Simon’s initial response, “Yea, *you* found the One our people have been looking for for thousands of years. Andrew thought he had already found that person in John the Baptizer [M.McGlone, NCR, 1/11/18]. Now it was another. The more Andrew kept insisting, the more Simon was sure his brother was playing a joke on him. Finally, Simon said, “You’re serious, aren’t you?” He followed Andrew to Jesus who changed him.

There are many reasons we receive a name. When we are born we are *given* a name by our parents. At Baptism that name is proclaimed to the church family and at Confirmation we can *choose* a new name as a model to follow. A name is often added when we marry. When a woman or man enters religious life, they have the option of a new name. All these moments are about a new beginning, a new

life. Simon's life changed the moment he met the Lord. His old life was over; he began a new life with Christ. He and Andrew didn't really know until much later what they were getting into.

We have met one or two people who captured our attention completely. We may have been attracted to them for surface reasons or because she or he had something that touched our hearts. Maybe it was a quiet woman named Teresa, a powerful speaker named Martin or a pope who asked for *our* blessing before giving us his. These seeming chance meetings have led to a short term friendship or a life-long relationship. Some we keep up with through the years; others not. Some are from God; others not.

Concl. There have also been people who either pointed out the Lord to us as Eli did for Samuel and

John the Baptizer did for the two disciples. Maybe we have been led directly to him as Andrew did with his brother, Simon. They may not have said it directly, "Hey, I want you to meet Jesus," but maybe. We might have "seen" him walking by and *on our own* wanted to know more about him. In reality, it is God who finds us. The initiative is his; the response is ours. What are we looking for? So much depends on our answer: to go and see where he stays or to say not today.