May the words of my mouth and the mediations of all our hearts, be acceptable in your sight – Our strength and our redeemer – Amen.

*“What are you looking for”?* (Jn 1:38a)

Jesus has asked a profound question, a difficult question. It is one that exists in every life and community. It is, however, a question we often avoid or deny. For most of us it is not the subject of everyday social conversation. To face our deepest longings, to acknowledge the emptiness within, to inquire about what is of ultimate importance, that which shapes and forms our lives. It means we would have to get real, be honest, vulnerable and open. So we talk mostly about what doesn’t matter until something happens that does matter – a tragedy, a failure, the loss of a loved one, a challenge that seems unbearable. That’s when the question arises. “What are you looking for?”

Ultimately, that question lies at the core of our discipleship, our relationship with God. How we answer it determines how we live, how we navigate the tragedies and pain of life, and how we relate to God and our neighbor. Even if we never directly ask that question of ourselves we are always answering it. We answer it every minute of every day. We answer Jesus’ question by our choices, the decisions we make, the priorities we establish, the relationships we create. We answer his question by the things we have done and the things we have left undone. The words we speak point to what we are looking for.

So when Jesus turns and asks his question he is really asking us to be self-reflective, to choose the course for our life. His question is for us not him. Jesus is not asking for our wish list. He is taking us deep into our own heart to discover the reality of our longings, the desires, the emptiness. If we are honest we find that far to often we have lived as homeless people. Too much of our life has been spent making our home in places that are far too temporary, fleeting, and passing. That is what Andrew discovered.

*“Where are you staying”* (Jn 1:38b) Andrew asks. That is about Andrew’s own sense of homelessness. He doesn’t want Jesus’ address. He wants to go home and believes that Jesus knows the way. He trusts that Jesus is the home he has longed for, that Jesus is the one who can fill his emptiness and satisfy his deepest desire. Andrew names the longing, the desire, the emptiness that we all feel. Sometimes, however, we are too quick to fill the emptiness, satisfy the desire, and quench the longing. So we seek solutions to problems instead of ways to transform lives. We settle for quick easy answers rather than living with hard questions. We look for approval from others rather than finding our identity in the Father. Every time we do this we cut off the longing, the desire, and the emptiness that point the way home.

Those feelings are not about absence. They are about the presence of God in every human being. They are the divine presence calling us, seeking us, loving us, guiding us home. Instead of eliminating the longings, the restlessness, the homelessness we should follow them. “What are you looking for” is the question that takes us into the human heart. *“Come and see”* (Jn 1:39) is the invitation that takes us home, into the heart of God. There is only one thing to do with an invitation like “come and see.” Get up and go look.

Jesus knows that we are all looking for something. The question is what. What are we looking for? Where is it taking us? If it is not taking us home; if it is not offering us hope and a way through the tragedies of life; if it is not filling us with compassion for the world; if it is not opening our eyes to a new way of being, a new way of seeing, a new way of living; if it is not deepening our relationships; if it is not revealing love; if it is not growing us more and more into the likeness of Christ we might want to look again. We might want to look for something else for we have denied our “choosiness” and settled for less than God is offering. Amen.