

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (6/7-8/2008)

Hosea 6/3-6, Psalm 50, Romans 4/18-25, Matthew 9/9-13

As I write this meditation, I see it's raining outside - a soft, spring rain.

The words of the prophet, Hosea, catch the moment: "*He (the Lord) will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth.*"

So I pause and reflect on how the Lord comes to us in so many ways, most of which we rarely acknowledge and even casually dismiss.

St. Paul indicates in today's second reading that two of our ancestors, Abraham and his wife, Sarah, experienced the Lord in His divine promise that one day they would have a child of their own, despite their advanced age.

So, a soft rain and a divine promise thus far.

For Matthew, the tax-gatherer (and not the author of this Gospel), the Lord comes in a straightforward invitation from Jesus: "*Follow me.*"

The Gospel says that Matthew drops everything and follows.

May I ask how the Lord comes to you?

When and under what circumstances have you experienced a "God-moment" lately?

All too often, we can spot "God-moments" well enough after they have happened, but we miss them AS they happen.

It seems to me that the path to holiness will become clearer and, perhaps, easier when we are able to recognize God's presence as it occurs.

Jesus preached the Kingdom of Heaven.

He went to great pains to point out that God's reign is all about us, even in the most mundane of moments or tasks.

His imaging parables and metaphors are always about real-life people and events.

A woman making bread, a merchant at his wares, a farmer sowing seeds, people at prayer, a father and his two sons, a poor man and a rich man. The list goes on.

