**The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 17 (Jn 1, 35-42)**

A word of truth, holiness, justice, charity, hope, mercy, and light can change the history of a man; while a word of falsehood, lie, and deceit can ruin it for eternity. The Apostle James thus reproves believers in Christ Jesus: *“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you realize that we will be judged more strictly, for we all fall short in many respects. If anyone does not fall short in speech, he is a perfect man, able to bridle his whole body also. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we also guide their whole bodies. It is the same with ships: even though they are so large and driven by fierce winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot's inclination wishes. In the same way the tongue is a small member and yet has great pretensions. Consider how small a fire can set a huge forest ablaze. The tongue is also a fire. It exists among our members as a world of malice, defiling the whole body and setting the entire course of our lives on fire, itself set on fire by Gehenna. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. This need not be so, my brothers. Does a spring gush forth from the same opening both pure and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, produce olives, or a grapevine figs? Neither can salt water yield fresh. Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show his works by a good life in the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. Wisdom of this kind does not come down from above but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.” (Jm 3,1-18).* Whoever wants his word to be a word of salvation and not of perdition must have a pure heart. A word of life will always arise from his heart. A word of death will come from the impure heart. No one with an impure heart will be able to say a single word of eternal life. Never.

*The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed).Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Kephas" (which is translated Peter).*

John is a true prophet of the living God. His heart is filled with the Holy Spirit. He sees Christ the Lord, speaks of him a very pure truth and two of his disciples follow Jesus. Jesus, with a very pure heart, full of the Father and the Holy Spirit, speaks to his disciples who remain with him for a day, and they become His Word of life for their brothers. In fact, Andrew meets Simon his brother and leads him to Jesus. It is as though John the Baptist with his word of very pure truth had triggered a chain reaction. Purity of truth in John, in Jesus, in Andrew. We should think a lot about this. Does my word of the purest truth set off a chain reaction for the truth to enter in many other hearts? Basically, this is true evangelization: a word of truth that provokes a reaction and involves everyone.

Mother of the Redemption, Angels, Saints, let our word be the purest truth.