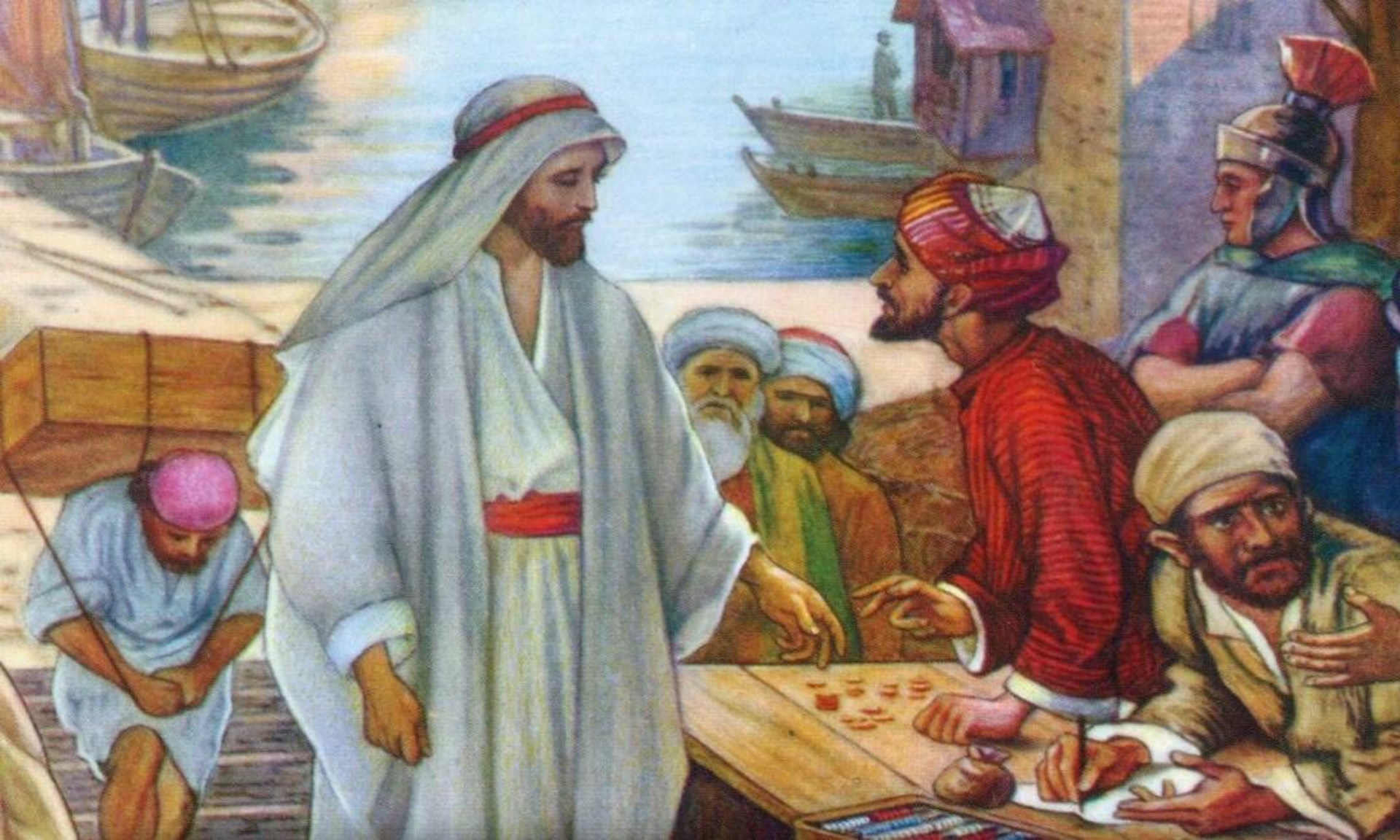




“Follow Me.” – Luke 5:27

Touched by God's Encouragement

2nd Sunday of Misra

How does God
encourage us?





1. He sees our potential

- EX: Levi
- **"Follow Me."** (Luke 5:27).
- EX: The Samaritan Woman
- **"Many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified."** (John 4:39).



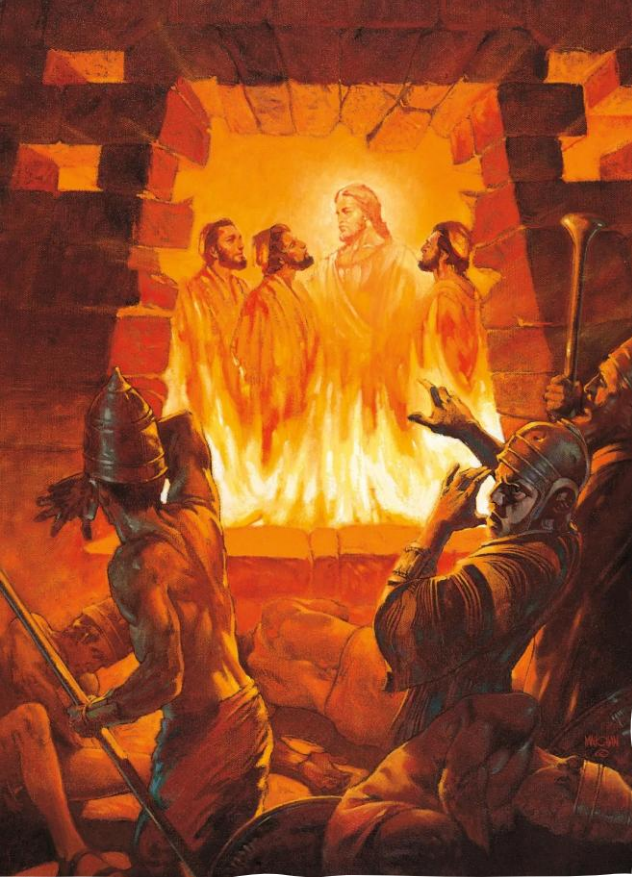
2. He encourages us with His mercy and compassion

- EX: Woman caught in adultery
- “And Jesus said to her, **“Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”** Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”** (John 8:11-12)

3. He encourages us in His generosity

- Example: Feeding the Five Thousand
- What could be the most valuable thing a person can give?
- **"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"**
(Romans 8:32)





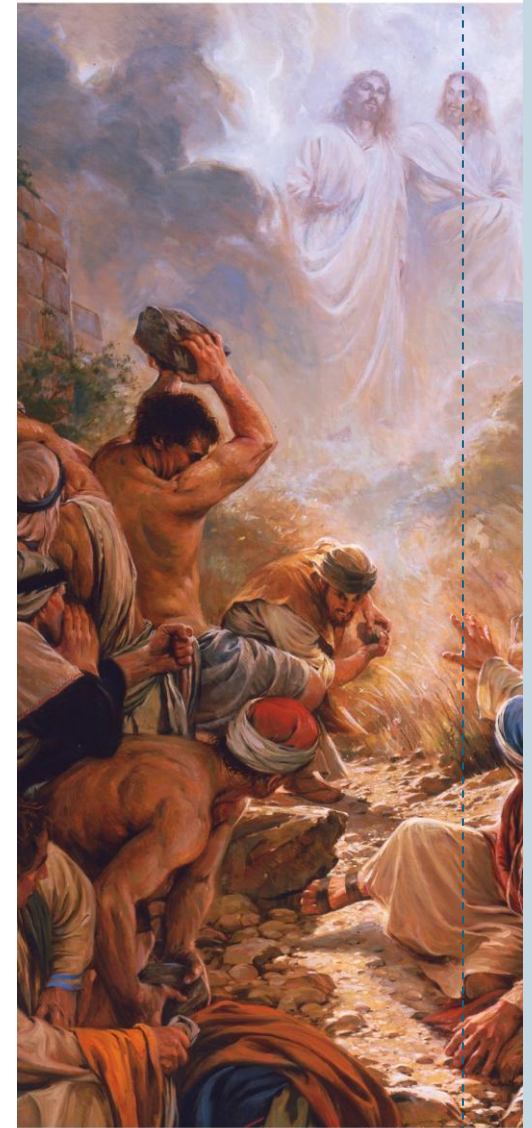
4. He encourages us with His support

- EX: Moses' calling
- **"I will certainly be with you."** (Exodus 3:12).
- *"God does not take away our weakness, but He joins His power to it, so that His strength may be made perfect in our weakness."* (St. Gregory of Nyssa)
- EX: Three Holy Youth



5. He encourages us by His recognition of us

- *“And we too who are sojourners in the place, keep us in Your faith until the end.”* (Liturgy of St. Basil)
- **“Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake.”** (Luke 6:22)
- EX: St. Stephen
- EX: Zacchaeus



6. He
encourages
us with His
forgiveness

- **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)**

We too can encourage one another in like manner

1. See the potential in others
 - EX: St. Monica
 - St. Augustine recalls: *“She wept for me more than mothers weep over the bodily death of their children.”* (Confessions)
2. Show mercy and compassion
3. Be generous
4. Offer support
5. Recognize and affirm others
6. Forgive and restore