



■ † Second Sunday of St. Matthew

Immediately - Quickly - Eagerly
The treasure and the pearl of great price*

The Lord called Peter and Andrew, and they **immediately** left everything and followed Him. He called James and John, and they, too, **immediately** left everything and followed the Lord.



Why did they follow Him so **quickly** and **eagerly**? Because they saw something better. Such is the law that we have in our soul, that once it has tasted and known what is better, it is repulsed by what is worse and abandons it.

Here is accomplished the same thing that our Lord later describes in His parable of the **treasure** hidden in a field and the **pearl of great price**. The treasure and the pearl are our **faith in the Lord and communion with Him**, according to our strength of faith.

Why do we value this **treasure** so little and exchange it for barren insignificance? Because we were not brought up to cultivate a taste for this **treasure**, and it becomes foreign to our heart. Our heart does not know this better thing. It only knows that there is the bad, the very bad, and the not so bad, and bases its outlook upon this assessment.

Here lies the reason why the Lord calls some and they come, whereas we, the chosen ones, depart from Him. □

(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.