

There are times in life when the decision we make is significant. Do I cross the road when the light has started flashing red? Should I run for the train that is approaching the station? Should I take this subject or choose another?

I remember standing at the desk ready to enrol in the fourth year of a five year course and saying to myself is this what I really want to do for the rest of my life? When I couldn't say yes I thought it best to take a break. I walked out of the Institute and my life took a completely different direction.

In this morning's gospel story Jesus was approached by Philip. Philip's Greek nationality indicated that Jesus reputation had spread far and wide.

Jesus realized that that meant his ministry, his life and teaching would come to the attention of those who would be threatened by and hostile to what he stood for and what he proclaimed. He realized that a critical point had come.

He needed to stand up or shrink back into obscurity. He chose to go forward, "it is for this reason that I have come to this hour".

The New Guinea Martyrs we will hear something of shortly faced a similar dilemma. They knew that they could attempt to flee to safety or stay at their posts and face an uncertain future. They chose to stay and it cost them their lives.

Jesus decision to continue proclaiming the Good News cost him his life but ultimately has been life-giving for millions of people down through the ages.

Our decisions might not carry the same risks or potential benefit. But we may well be able to significantly change our future and the future of many people.

Which is why asking for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do and say makes so much sense.

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