

Fr. Rito's Homily

For the 2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017

5PM Vigil Mass, 12:15 PM Mass in Spanish, 5:00 PM Sunday

On this second Sunday of Advent, it is necessary to prepare a path for God. The Prophet Isaiah shows us how God comes to meet us, to comfort us, and transform us into a new people, destined for love.

John the Baptist, who was the last of the Prophets, who presented himself as the precursor of the Lord, did the same. The message of John the Baptist is to prepare the way of the Messiah, inviting us to a conversion of the heart.

The Prophet Isaiah and John the Baptist offered a message of hope for the people of Israel. God promises, through the prophet Isaiah, that the people of Israel will return to Jerusalem. God, through the message of John the Baptist, allowed the people to change their hearts and change their mentality.

In order for God to fulfill his promise, the people must begin a journey, a new exodus to again renew the covenant with God. This experience of the people of Israel is the same experience that is proposed to us today. We have to begin a path to return to God. A path of conversion and interior change. The conversion never ends. Every day we have to try to make our life better.

Jesus comes to meet us: first in His incarnation, second when He comes into our lives, and third, when He will come at the end of time. The path of Advent season helps us to purify our hearts and to give, in our lives, a good welcoming to Jesus.

The coming of Jesus, is good news for the salvation for all. Jesus wants to make of us a new creation, a new world, and give us a new spiritual path. This is the reason why we have to wait for him, with a heart transformed through the works of charity. Jesus wishes to dwell in our hearts.

A voice cries out in the desert. The word of God came to John, when John the Baptist was in the desert. The desert is understood in the Bible, as the place of solitude, silence, and inner peace.

For many people, it is difficult for the word of God to reach their hearts and ears, because society creates a lot of noise through the television, internet, music, and other things that impede the listening for the whisper of the voice of God. Other times, our heart is very busy and we have no room for God. John the Baptist committed his life and heart to God. The word of God, entered



into the heart of John. That is why John is an example of humility and fidelity to the Lord. John the Baptist preached with the word and with the example of penance.

John the Baptist, the precursor of the Lord, prepared the coming of the messiah with simplicity and austerity. John the Baptist had sobriety in eating and dressing. His example should help us become aware in response to the consumer society of today. Many of our closets are full of clothes and shoes, which we do not really need. John the Baptist waited for the coming of the messiah with a single tunic, made of animal skin and a pair of sandals. On this second Sunday of Advent season, the example of John the Baptist should strengthen our purpose for conversion.

The conversion of the Advent season, should lead us to live in humility, generosity, and solidarity with the poor. The message of John the Baptist, encourages us to straighten our lives and correct our mistakes in life. He also invites us to leave our selfishness and to renew our life with generosity.

Many people spend their life and time with a twisted attitude, which cannot be straighten, because they do not know how to value themselves, how to forgive, or have love for themselves. When our life is upright, then we are walking on the right path to encounter with Jesus. If, as Christians, we practice a spiritual life, then, together, we will be creating a new world and a new society, waiting for Jesus to come and share life with us.

The encounter with Jesus, commits us to leave the old man of selfishness and individualism to become a new person, new in the way of loving, living, and sharing our spiritual life with Jesus and with our families.

Also, for us, a deep conversion is also necessary by changing our minds and repent from our faults and sins that separate us from the love of God. When we reconcile with God and ask God for forgiveness, then we can begin a new life of holiness and justice. Jesus is holy, love, and justice. This is what Jesus expects from us, in this Advent season: a holy and just heart.

Patience and hope are two virtues that Saint Peter recommends. We need patience, so as not to fall into the temptation of sin. We also need hope, to yearn with a converted heart, a new heaven and a new earth, in which justice dwells.

May the word we received today, comfort us, strengthen us, and transform us into the good children of God. May God grant us the grace to persevere in faith and hope. May Jesus Christ find all of us filled with his peace.

Fr. Rito's Homilies are on our parish website:

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