

January 19, 2020 2nd Sunday in Ordinary time

Do you find time for God in your daily routine?

Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Psalm 40:2-10

1 Corinthians 1:1-3

John 1:29-34

In the first reading we hear God calling his servants to bring the news of salvation to all the nations. The prophet was formed by God in the womb and is strengthened by God and so recognizes that all comes from Him. He is given a mission, is made a light to the nations, as God wants salvation for all peoples.

The Psalm is a prayer of thanksgiving of the psalmist who has waited patiently in present dangers, trusted with all of his heart, and is saved. Joyful people, he says, trust in the Lord, don't turn to forms of idolatry, don't stray after falsehood, and have ears open to obedience. God prefers obedience to sacrifice and doing the will of God is his delight.

In the second reading Paul sends his greetings to Corinth and reminds them that they, like all who call upon the Lord Jesus Christ, are consecrated in the Lord, and are called to holiness. The grace and peace they receive comes from God, our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel tells us how Jesus came to be recognized by John as God's chosen one. John saw the Spirit come down like a dove upon Jesus and remain upon him, and this is a sign that he is the one to come that will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John is clear in saying that Jesus is the Son of God.

The Father sends a messenger from the heavens,
And tells us the Son baptizes with the Holy Spirit.



A Relationship with Jesus

John the Baptist confesses that he had at first failed to recognize Jesus as the One sent by God our Father. Hence, we need not feel alone if we have had a similar experience. We are not to worry about the Second Coming of Jesus, but rather learn to see Christ in our midst. Paul, once a great persecutor of Christians, never knew the historical Jesus, but he changed dramatically after encountering the risen Christ. The Church emphatically tells us that we are all called to a relationship with Jesus.

When things are going well and nothing seems difficult, Jesus is present, but when he can't seem to be found all things become difficult. When we do not hear his inner voice, consolation is lacking, but if we hear but a single word consolation abounds.

When Martha secretly said to Mary, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." (John 11:28-48) she immediately rose and dried her tears as he said, "Lazarus, come out!"

Jesus calls all of us from tears to spiritual joyfulness. How parched we are without Jesus, and how senseless we are to seek anything but Jesus. One thief on the cross next to Jesus chided him and left to the nether world; the other recognized Jesus for who he truly was and Jesus replied to him: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (Luke 23:43).

What can the present world give you without our Lord and Savior!

(Adapted from Kempis, Imitations of Christ, Book 2, Chapter 8)