

01.07.2019 – Monday after Epiphany – Homily

I Jn 3:22-4:6 Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

John the Baptist's enemies had sought to silence him, but the good news of God's kingdom of salvation cannot be silenced. As soon as John had finished his testimony and John the Baptist had been arrested, the gospel reading this morning reveals the beginning of the ministry of Jesus in Galilee. In this Gospel, many who were in need were brought to Jesus.

Jesus takes up John's message of repentance and calls his hearers to believe in the good news he has come to deliver. What is the **good news**, which Jesus brings?

1. It is the good news of **peace** - the Lord comes to reconcile and restore us to friendship with God.
2. The good news of **hope** - the Lord comes to dwell with us and to give us a home with him in his heavenly kingdom.
3. The good news of **truth** - the Lord Jesus sets us free from the lies and deception of Satan and opens our mind to understand the truth and revelation of God's word (John 8:32).
4. The good news of **promise** - Jesus fulfills the promise of God to reward those who seek him with the treasure of heaven.
5. The good news of **immortality** - Jesus overcomes sin and death for us in order to raise our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body, which will never die again.
6. And the good news of **salvation** - the Lord Jesus delivers us from every fear, every sin, and every obstacle that would keep us from entering his everlasting kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy.

In announcing the good news, Jesus makes two demands: **repent and believe!** Repentance requires a change of course - a turning away from sin and disobedience and a turning towards the Lord with faith and submission to his word of truth and righteousness - right living according to God's truth and moral goodness.

The Holy Spirit gives us a repentant heart, a true sorrow and hatred for sin and its bad consequences and a firm resolution to avoid whatever would lead us into sin.

The Holy Spirit gives us grace to see our sin for what it is - rebellion and a rejection of the love of God. God's grace helps us to turn away from all that would keep us from his love.

Let us pray:

Lord I praise you, bless you, thank you and adore you. Send your Holy Spirit into my heart. May I understand your good news by the power of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit may lead me to repent and believe your Son Jesus Christ who is the way the light and the truth. Give me the grace to do my part so that all people will come to enter into your healing presence. **Jesus, I trust in you.**