

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 12/1/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

IS 40:1-5, 9-11

PS 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14 (Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation)

2 PT 3:8-14

MK 1:1-8

GOSPEL:

- The Gospel begins with a reference to the Prophet Isaiah
 - It refers to John - what does it mean to prepare? How will the paths be made straight? Do they need to be straightened?
- John's message is of repentance -how might this connect to the above questions?
- John's Baptism involved an acknowledgement of sins
- His dress is significant and connects to another prophecy.
- Notice that he always is careful to take the attention off of himself and place it towards Jesus - How are we in doing that? How could we turn that attention to Jesus?
- Baptize in the Holy Spirit? This has several meanings - what do you think is meant here?

FIRST READING:

- Here we see the prophecy of Isaiah in more detail. The voice preparing the way. But here there is more detail about whom he is preparing the way for.
- An expiation of sins - how does this become accomplished?
- The leveling of the land - what does this leveling represent?, how does this leveling reveal the Glory of God? How does the incarnation that we will celebrate at Christmas fit in to this?
- There is a call to go to the mountaintops and and not fear to cry out. To say what? How does this fit in to Jesus speaking of us as salt of the Earth and light of the world?
- HE comes with power - who?
 - His arm is strong, he is a shepherd - notice the behavior of the shepherd: feeds, gathers to the bosom, leads with care.
 - How is this consistent with "power"?
- What are we supposed to shout about, how can we accept fully and bring this message to others?

SECOND READING:

- We hear of the timelessness of God - it seems like he "delays" but not actually so in God's time.
 - He speaks of the end of the world (now understood scientifically)
- This time gives us a chance for repentance.
- Paul speaks of how to behave during the time of waiting. At the end urges the beloved to eagerly follow
- What is the new heaven and new earth that he speaks of?

—Closing Prayer