

Lent Wednesday Week 5

First Reading: *Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95*;

Responsorial Psalm: *Dn 3: 52, 53, 54, 55, 56*;

Gospel Reading: *John 8:31-42*

**Theme:** Jesus set us free

Many opportunities go unrecognized, utilized, and appreciated. The religious authorities rejected Jesus's offer of freedom, forgiveness, and new life because they were blinded by misguided ideas that the Messiah would restore the Kingdom of Israel and make the Jews rule the whole earth far more than what Nebuchadnezzar did.

The freedom that Jesus Christ won for humanity was an atonement of sacrifice for the sin of the world. Jesus shows us the way to the kingdom of God and the TRUTH. The truth sets us free (John 8: 31-32): Freedom from sin. Discipleship requires faith and obedience, like that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego in the first reading. In less than a year, God has freed us from the worship of artists, celebrities, rallies, athletes, stadiums, gyms, etc. instead of churches.

The season of lent is about renewing our commitment to growth in faith, perseverance, and obedience to the Lord. In one of his sermons, Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) said, "I believe, in order to understand - and I understand, the better to believe" (*Sermon 43:7,9*) that only the Way, the Truth, and His Life (John 14: 6) always matters. May we appreciate some opportunities of freedom that the Lord currently offers us.

--Fr. Sev Kupo