

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Repent and believe the Good News!

Jonah 3:1-5. 10

Jonah preaches to the people of Nineveh and they repent.

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

How to live in a world that is rapidly passing away.

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls his first apostles and they follow him.



Reflection

After John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee and began to “proclaim the good news from God”.

According to Mark, Jesus didn’t teach **a doctrine** for his disciples to learn and spread correctly. What he did was to announce **an event** that was already taking place. He was now living that event fully and he wants to share his experience with everyone.

Mark sums up his message:

1. **“The time has come”**. Don’t look back any more.
2. **“The kingdom of God is near”**, for he wants to build a more humane world,
3. **“Repent!”** You can’t carry on as if nothing was happening; change your way of thinking and your way of behaving.
4. **“Believe the good news”**. This venture of God is the best news you can get.

After this solemn introduction, the first act of Jesus is to look for supporters to carry out his project. Jesus “walked beside the Lake of Galilee”. He began his journey.



Jesus is an itinerant prophet looking for followers to make an intense, enthusiastic drive to open up paths to the kingdom of God. He is not a rabbi teaching while sitting on a chair, seeking out students to train in a religious school. To be a Christian is not a matter of **learning doctrines** but of **following Jesus**. Jesus is the one who always takes the initiative. He goes to them, fixes his gaze on those four fishermen, and calls them to give their lives a new direction. Without his involvement, no true Christian is ever born. We believers need to live with more faith in the living presence of Christ and how he is beckoning each one of us with his gaze. If not Jesus, who else can give a new direction to our lives?

But what really makes a difference is to hear his call within us: “Come, follow me”. This doesn’t happen in a single day. To listen to his call means that we awaken our faith in Jesus, revive our personal loyalty to him, have faith in what he is doing, identify with his programme, live his attitudes, and in that way to gain more people to work for him.

A new motto for our Parish today could be:

Follow **Jesus**; set **him** in front of everyone; remember **him** every Sunday as the leader who goes before us; get a new energy centred totally on following **Jesus Christ** more closely.

Our parish would be transformed.

The church would be different.



WORDSEARCH

E	B	A	S	W	O	L	L	O	F	ARRESTED	GALILEE	GOOD
D	E	T	S	E	R	R	A	I	L	NEWS	HAND	REPENT
S	L	E	E	C	L	O	S	E	R	BELIEVE	CASTING	FOLLOW
E	I	E	M	A	N	H	F	T	C	JAMES	ZEBEDEE	BOAT
E	E	D	A	I	E	T	A	N	A			
L	V	E	J	R	T	S	M	E	S			
I	E	B	M	D	E	L	W	P	T			
L	D	E	Y	O	L	P	M	E	I			
A	N	Z	B	O	A	T	S	R	N			
G	O	D	O	G	D	N	A	H	G			

