

Second Sunday of Advent

Year B,

Saint's John Episcopal Church

December 10, 2023

Lessons

Isaiah 40, 1-11

Psalm 85, 1-2

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1, 1-8

He is Coming

By Fr, Bro, William Font, O.P.

“I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

A. The Debate.

- The most recent debate that has been off our breath is when Christmas should begin. After Halloween or Thanksgiving.
- I would be impressed with the debate if the responses would produce or reflect the meaning of Christmas. I am scared of what I see as Christmas's meaning for people.
- I believe it is time for somebody to tell us the real story.
- In that regard, today's Gospel is very pertinent. We probably need somebody to be rude, reminding us what Christmas is.

B. Mark: Let us check out Mark—the review of the leading ideas of Christianity (and Christmas). Why Mark is so pertinent now?

- Mark has always been criticized because the Gospel has nothing beautiful or exciting.
- But Mark's has an essential characteristic
- Mark's gospel is to take everything straight to the point. Even there are moments when the gospel scares you.

- Mark's gospel was written for the same people who probably witnessed Jesus's story.
- Mark is a gospel that makes you go back to the basics.

C. What do we need to hear from Mark that makes us get the Christmas story? What is the connection between Mark and the mystery of Christmas? Even when Mark does not have a Christmas story.

- First, we have been taking the season of Christmas for granted, including us Christians; again, we need somebody like Mark to tell us the real story of the motif of Christmas.
- Second, here are the Real elements for Christmas:
 - 1 Jesus is the Good News for his birth and the consequence of his presence in the world. NEW LIFE in Him.
 - 2 Second, as the next part of the text says, God and Jesus have sent us to be his messenger. But, we should be very clear about our duty as disciples of Jesus. In Mark's gospel, disciples are those who can SEE Jesus.
 - 3 Finally, just in case we miss how a disciple or a messenger of Jesus looks, there is a complete description of John The Baptist.

D. Altar.

If we miss the reason or the meaning of Christmas:
This is the Season, but this is the Reason. This is Christmas.

AMEN.

