

2nd Sunday of Advent Year C

- I. Do you like your name
If you could change it – what would you change it to?
FRANCIS – kinda wimpy – until we moved Sophomore Year – FRANK

In the first reading Jerusalem is renamed
“God will show all the earth your splendor – you will be renamed by God forever –
The peace of Justice The Glory of God’s Worship”

You have to understand the sanctity of YOUR NAME in this culture
Your name indicates what you are (Baby books – Peter = Rock, Francis = Freeman)
Names are sacred – so if you said “Praise the name of the Lord” = “Praise the Lord”

YHWH – unpronounceable – God is so great, incomprehensible, his name can’t be said
G-D or G*D in latest books to retain that holiness

So when God changes Jerusalem’s name it doesn’t mean Jerusalem is to be described as
Peace, Justice, Glory of God – Jerusalem is TO BE Peace, Justice, Glory of God

- This is a great promise by the prophet in midst of enormous suffering.
- We all have good days and bad days – good years and bad years
- Israel was in exile and very little hope of returning to Jerusalem
A friend once told me → Nothing grows on the mountaintop

At the time of John the Baptist – Israel is an occupied nation
Not like Iraq – for generations!

Luke makes a point of listing all the people & places in the gospel
He does it on purpose to anchor Jesus in human history

- All these people play a role and witness the reality of Jesus
- Luke does it in a way that leads to the definition of prophet
- “Word of God came to John” – *intervention of God* in human history
- Message of Luke – UNIVERSAL SALVATION
 - A voice in the desert cries out TO ALL
 - EVERY VALLEY
 - EVERY MOUNTAIN
 - ALL Flesh will see