

What Should We Do?

- Zephaniah begins our readings: Shout for joy – Rejoice – the Lord is in your midst
 - It's why we wear Rose-colored vestments – ITS ALMOST HERE
- In today's Gospel the people gather around John and ask a good question, "What is it that **we** should do To grow the Kingdom of God?"
 - Not what should the rich be doing
 - Not what should the government be doing.
 - Not what should the Church be doing
 - What should **we** be doing to prepare for the Kingdom of God
- John the Baptist challenged the people to love
 - If you have 2 cloaks ..
 - If you have food ...
 - If your job is to collect taxes – do it fairly
 - If your job is to be a soldier – do it rightly
 - Not rocket science – Repent and live a moral life – BE LOVABLE
 - St. Paul put it this way (Phil). "Let your gentleness be known to everyone, for the Lord is near."
- What is it we should do to prepare for the Lord?
 - There is a story of a little 3rd grade girl who came for confession.
 - She climbed up into the chair and said, "Well, I've been naughty."
 - The priest smiled and asked how she's been naughty and she told him her sins.
 - She understood that she had freely chosen to do things that were wrong & wanted forgiveness.
 - In this age no one wants to take responsibility for sin
 - We can rationalize that it is always someone else's fault
 - But she knew that she had done wrong and wanted forgiveness.
 - The priest looked at her with compassion and thought, that's how God sees us. He sees us as lovable.
- What is it that we should do?
 - If we seek forgiveness, we should offer forgiveness.
 - Christmas can be the most hypocritical day of the year if we act like we're at peace while seeking payback
 - Do we seek reconciliation or revenge?
 - If I am warm and fuzzy while I am looking for an opportunity for payback, I am a hypocrite.
- John the Baptist was a radical – but what he called for was simple
 - Repent and live a moral life
 - He called people to change their lives.
 - Christmas is about changing the world and us.
 - What are we to do?
 - We have to embrace the Messiah. Is this hard? Not really.
 - Jesus is not hiding from us. Usually it is we who are hiding from him.

We need to make the time to speak to the Lord

Spend time in Prayer

Spend time in Scripture

Stop by for confession - its here every week

God wants to come close to us –

In fact – He wants to come so close, that he becomes one of us

Use the next 2 weeks of Advent to take time to be with Him