

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

January 26, 2020 • 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 4:12-23

Repent

After John the Baptist is beheaded, Jesus retreats to Galilee, closer to home. Remember, John was Jesus' cousin; they probably grew up together. When John was murdered, it must have affected Jesus deeply. Finally, he leaves Nazareth and moves closer to the Sea of Galilee, to a town called Capernaum. He begins his public preaching and gathers his apostles.

Jesus begins his public ministry by announcing the coming of the kingdom. He tells us it's time to repent. Remember, the kingdom of God is not just the heaven we hope to get to after we die. The kingdom of God is also with us here, right now. The kingdom is any place or time where God's love is present and active.

Jesus was able to claim the kingdom was at hand because he brought the kingdom. Any place or time Jesus was present, there was the kingdom. As Christians, we are asked to be Christ today and bring the kingdom to our own time and place. That means we take Jesus' words to heart. We look at ways we can change for the better. We need to adjust how we act or how we react.

Think about what needs to change in your everyday family life for the kingdom to reign in your home. Begin with the surface things. Is the pace too fast? Is the noise level too high? Is there a constant attitude of "I'll get you back!"? We know that no amount of coaxing or nagging will change someone else if he or she isn't ready to change. And so as the grown-up in the household, change will have to begin with you.

Remember, with God's help, we can change how we act and respond. With God's help, we can become our best selves. And with God's help, the changes in you will bring out the best in others.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk about what would make everyone in the family get along better. How can each person help?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What changes need to be made for your home to better reflect God's kingdom? How can you help make this happen? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?