

Second Sunday of Advent, December 3/4, 2016

Christ IS Coming: Be Prepared

Reflection To those in Jesus' time, John the Baptist appeared as the prophet Elijah come back, warning the people to turn away from sin and to turn toward God - or face the consequences.



John the Baptist was especially critical of the Pharisees, who were supposed to be leading the people by word and example but instead were consumed with their own worth and ignored and even hindered those in need. We are told to not be like the self-centered Pharisees.

As people traveled to or from Jerusalem they could see him standing by the Jordan's edge calling people to repentance, telling them to get their lives in order, and to make straight the way of the Lord. Letting them know that Jesus would soon be here and we need to **Be Prepared**.

Meditation Make straight the way of the Lord. Have you ever watched a highway being built? Have you noticed how they come in with huge bull dozers and knock down the hills and fill in the valleys and build bridges so that the road is straight and level? That's what this gospel is asking us to do. It's asking us to knock down all the hills or rough edges in our relationships with God and with others and to fill in all those valleys or gaps that are missing in our lives and in our relationships; to put others first.

Suggested Action Steps/Family Activity Think about your life. What are the hills and valleys in your relationship with God? Are there things that cause me to sin? Am I as loving and helpful to my family and neighbor as God would like me to be?

Where do I fall short? Are there extra steps I need to take to build up my relationship with my family.

Go out of your way to help your neighbor or those in need this week.

Be better prepared to face Christ when He comes this Christmas.

Prayer Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. Help us to recognize those blessings in making ready the way to you. Help us to better acknowledge our own shortcomings, to be more Christ like in our relations with others, and to learn to build bridges to those in need. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Submitted by: Deacon Chuck Bent