

Young Adult Scripture Reflection
December 13, 2009
Third Sunday of Advent

Hello Friends of St. Francis,

As we get ready to party and celebrate during this season, we are like those in the Gospel asking, "What then, must we do?" Can you keep a **secret**?

Our eternal salvation depends upon our willingness and ability to keep a **secret** about our prayer, fasting & alms giving. What else then, must we do to prepare for the Lord Jesus? The **secret is known** to each of us with in our very heart. Enjoy the following Gospel reading and reflection.

May God bless you with hope!

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<http://stfrancisa2.com/service4justice/>

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A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist,
"What should we do?"
He said to them in reply,
"Whoever has two cloaks
should share with the person who has none.
And whoever has food should do likewise."
Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him,
"Teacher, what should we do?"
He answered them,
"Stop collecting more than what is prescribed."
Soldiers also asked him,
"And what is it that we should do?"
He told them,
"Do not practice extortion,
do not falsely accuse anyone,
and be satisfied with your wages."

Now the people were filled with expectation,
and all were asking in their hearts
whether John might be the Christ.
John answered them all, saying,

"I am baptizing you with water,
but one mightier than I is coming.
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor
and to gather the wheat into his barn,
but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
Exhorting them in many other ways,
he preached good news to the people.

Gospel Reflection:

Advent is happening with parties, dinners, musical presentations to heighten our spirits. We ask questions like: Who will be there? What will be served? What should we wear? And, generally what is expected?

What then, must we do? In Luke 3:10-18 we are told to.... Be honest. Be satisfied and grateful. Share what you have: clothes, food, family, etc... .. Enjoy life! "Live simply so that others may simply live."

What then, must we do? In Matthew 6, we are told to... "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them... When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you... .."

What then, must we do? Pray! Fast! Give Alms! (All in secret!)

"This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name... .. When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face... Store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. ... Why are you anxious about clothes? ... Seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." (Matthew 6)

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-7)

"Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel."
(Isaiah 12)
