

Young Adult Scripture Reflection
December 6, 2009
The Second Sunday of Advent

Well, here we are, midway between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Parties with coworkers, friends, and family pop up. We hunt for the funniest White Elephant gift or the perfect present. We are getting ready for visitors or getting ready to go visit.

Take some time to remember what this time of Advent is actually about preparing for.

Jen Delvaux

Gospel

Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea,
and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee,
and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region
of Ituraea and Trachonitis,
and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene,
during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,
the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.
John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan,
proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:
*A voice of one crying out in the desert:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths.
Every valley shall be filled
and every mountain and hill shall be made low.
The winding roads shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Reflection

Are you busy? Did you consider not even reading this email because of that endless holiday to-do list? Fairly safe to say that if you are a bit frantic at this time of year, you are not alone.

You are undoubtedly busy preparing. There is cleaning to be done, after all, no one inspects your bathroom or spare room's closet quite like mom. You have to cook, what is Christmas without cookies or your family's secret recipe that every demands at the holiday meal. The stores loom as you frantically shop for the best gifts at the best price. Then there is the wrapping, the stockings, and the trimmings. Yes, you are quite well prepared.

But are you prepared for what really matters during Advent?

The chaos of December's Christmas preparations can leave us feeling exhausted and as spiritually dry as a desert. Mall parking lots, copious amounts of cleaning and cooking, papercuts from pesky wrapping paper all accumulate to become seemingly heavy burdens. Soon our spirit of the season withers and dries.

Today we have the call of John the Baptist echoing through the centuries calling us. He is reminding us of our focus and our destiny. We are preparing for Christ. We are preparing our selves, our souls, our families, our homes, to receive him yet again. All the other tasks we give ourselves fall into place when we remember the reason why we do them – to prepare for Christ and to live a life of Christian love, hospitality, and charity.

Remember to take time from the chaos, the parking lots, the kitchen, the cleaning to live the season of Advent. Find time to pray and worship. Remember that the most valuable gift we have to offer is ourselves, after all, God modeled it for us with the gift of his Son. See the beauty in this time – the candles and the wreath, the star on the tree, the joy of friends and family being present to each other. Prepare yourself for the Lord.