

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, December 13, 2015

The Third Sunday of Advent

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

YOU SHOULD...

You should keep the commandments.

You should avoid sin.

You should go to Mass on Sundays.

You should read the scriptures.

You should pray daily.

You should forgive your enemies.

You should set a good example.

You should work for peace and justice.

You should share your time, talent, and treasure.

As a Church we are very good at telling people what they *should* do!

In Sunday's Gospel (Luke 3:10-18), we hear John the Baptist doing the same thing. He is telling various people what they should do.

He tells the crowds that they should share their clothing and food with the less fortunate. He tells tax collectors they should not line their pockets by collecting more than the required amount. He tells soldiers they should be satisfied with their pay and not extort money by leveling false accusations against others.

However there is a major difference between the advice given by the Church and the advice given by John the Baptist in Sunday's Gospel.

John was telling people what they should do in response to their questions. The crowds, the tax collectors, and the soldiers had been moved by his preaching, by his call to repentance, and by his announcement that the long awaited Messiah was about to come. They wanted to be ready and prepared for the Lord to come into their lives.

They were the ones asking, "What should we do?" And John was responding to their inquiries.

However, in many cases, in our desire to pass on our Catholic faith we are attempting to give answers to people who have never asked the question "What should we do?"

We are like doctors telling people who have no concern or question about their health what they should do to improve their physical well-being. Most of us only pay attention to answers that fit the questions we are asking.

It is only when we show others the joy, meaning, and fulfillment that we have because of our relationship with Christ and his Church that they will start asking us what they should do to have such a life-giving relationship in their own lives.

Evangelization starts not by us telling people how they should live but rather by us getting people interested and excited about Jesus Christ.

John the Baptist would tell us that our answers only make a difference to those who are motivated to ask, "What should we do?"

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