

Gospel Reflection

A sense of urgency is reflected in all of today's readings. Jonah warns the Ninevites, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed." Paul reminds the Corinthians that "time is running out." Jesus proclaims that "this is the time of fulfillment." There is no denying that we humans tend to respond more readily to an urgent request; we seem to be much more motivated by something that must be done right now. This tendency makes it all too easy to put off less urgent things: "Oh, we've got time for that later."

For the people in Jonah's day, for the people of Jesus' time and Paul's time, the end was believed to be imminent. The words of the prophets and reformers frequently tried to evoke a sense of urgency.

We don't know how much time we have as individuals or as nations to reform our ways, but it's safe to say that there's less time left today than there was yesterday. Today's readings may be inviting us to revise our priorities.

Jesus' urgent message to the people of Galilee contains two important declarative statements. The command to "repent" is commonly heard. Far less common is a command that requires the hearer to have faith. Yet Jesus says, "Believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). This is not a request or a suggestion. He does not say, "I hope you can believe" or "Would you consider believing?" Baptized Christians, believers by definition, are to live their lives as if their beliefs mattered. That is why we must repent as well as believe. Whatever our calling in life, our families, neighbors, friends, and co-workers should all be able to tell that we believe in the gospel by the way we live the gospel. Time is too short to do otherwise.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Mark 1:14-20

F R T B J U Z G U I F N J
I I W E R D N A N E S T P
L G S K P N Z L O E J E K
X U K H R E T I M E S G M
S M T N E M L L I F L U F
D I P P A R R E S T E D B
A B T X C E S E P R Z T B
F O P W H H B O N S P V I
I Z P T I S P A F E O N G
E J O H N I Y B B M T G T
J R T I G F B H S A E S O
B F S V Y B N U G J W N C
K U J O H P X G O B W G Z

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

ANDREW	TIMES	BROTHER
FISHERMEN	JAMES	FULFILLMENT
GALILEE	GOSPEL	FISHERS OF MEN
JESUS	JOHN	PREACHING
NETS	SIMON	ARRESTED

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1/25/2009*

*Mark 1:14-20
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
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Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Mark 1:14-20*

The Gospel according to John

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the **time of fulfillment**. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the **gospel**."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

After John had been arrested: The author of Mark portrays Jesus' active mission as beginning following the end of John's.

time of fulfillment: Jesus' ministry is the fulfillment of the promised coming of the Messiah.

gospel: This word comes from the Old English *god-spell* (or *godspel*) which is a word-for-word translation of the original Greek term *euangelion*, which literally means "good message" or "good news." It is likely that Jesus is using this literal meaning in this passage.



Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- In what ways do I hear God calling me to change?
- Am I resisting this call? Why?
- When do I find it easy to repent? When do I find it difficult to do so?
- How is my belief in Jesus reflected in my discipleship?

Closing Prayer

Almighty Father,

The love you offer always exceeds the furthest expression of our human longing, for you are greater than the human heart. Direct each thought, each effort of our life, so that the limits of our faults and weaknesses may not obscure the vision of your glory or keep us from the peace you have promised. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time