

2018.12.16 Homily by Fr. Gabor Advent3-C6

Today's Gospel story is a continuation of last week's Gospel, where John the Baptist reminded us that we must reorder our lives.

Today the crowds who listen to this message respond to him and ask him what must they do in a practical way to reorder their lives, and where should they start?

John gives them some practical advice: share your excess cloth, excess food, be just and do not demand more than what you should get, do not use your power or influence to intimidate others, and be content with your pay. In other words, be like Christ who is just, merciful, content with the little He has and strives for peace!

Why shall we do all these? Because this is how the Lord, the prince of peace, who is to come, wants you to put your faith and His love into practice. This is true religion. So do not just pray and talk to Him, but act as well.

So how do we ourselves start? Come at peace with God first of all by going to confession. Make peace with God. Look around and notice the little blessings that you receive day to day, through people and your environment, and focus on these blessings rather than on what you don't have. Cultivate the attitude of graciousness for these little good things and blessings in your lives and in other people, and do not be focussed only on the weaknesses of your husband, wife or friends, but on the good things that they have from God, and you will have peace and joy in your heart and you will be more ready to be reconciled with one another. Share what you have in excess and you will bring joy to others and that will be your joy as well.

God is full of joy when we are full of joy, so let our joy come from seeing and making others happy and joyful!