

Homily by Fr. Gabor Advent4-C6

I am sure you can think of small towns and places from where world famous people emerged, such as Dunblane, the birthplace of Andy Murray, our no. 1 tennis player, then there is Isaac Newton from Woolstrophe Manor in England, Albert Einstein from the small German town of Ulm, and you can list many more world famous people from small places of the world.

All of today's readings point to little things or insignificant people and they tell us that great things start in little ways. They tell us how little, humble, insignificant persons are lifted up by the Almighty Father.

In the first reading the prophet Micah points to Bethlehem, a small village in the Ephrathah district of Israel and says that out of this small place will be born the Messiah. He was absolutely accurate.

Then in the Gospel reading we hear about Mary, a completely unknown, humble young girl who is about to become the Mother of the Son of God.

Being little and humble before God is so important that the Son of God offers himself to come among us and be as little as we are, compared to God, by becoming a human being. As St. Paul says in his letter to the Philippians 2:5-8: 'Christ Jesus, ^[a]6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ^[b] 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, ^[c] being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.' The Father in return exalts him above all living being by raising him up. Thus the Father's plan is completed on earth as it is in Heaven.

The Father can't carry out his loving plan through people who are full of themselves, egotistic and proud, who only want to do what they think is best for them and others, and that is true even if you are a practicing Christian. Just by going to church and praying humbly before God doesn't mean we also humbly carry out his plan. Real humility is about seeking and carrying out the Father's plan, which in essence is all about bringing people back to a love relationship with God in the way Christ has shown us. This is the most important need all of us have, and this is what we need to facilitate among our families and friends.

Without Mary's humble yes to God's loving plan Jesus couldn't have come among us to bring us back to the heavenly Father and we wouldn't have Christmas preparations. Without Jesus' humble washing of the feet of His disciples we wouldn't know what true service is and without His humble acceptance of injustice and death on the cross we wouldn't receive free forgiveness when we repent our sins and we wouldn't have the hope of eternal life.

So let us humble ourselves before God our loving Father and seek his loving plan both for our loved ones, our enemies and ourselves.