Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Jonah 3:1-5,10

Psalm 25

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

“I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out.” (1 Cor.)

Aren’t we glad that this past Summer, I explained that time and space are just tools that we use. The enlightened understand that, if we want to measure it, there is just the moment that includes the past and the future. So when Jesus says, “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand,” it is just as true now as it was then. It is the same moment. So what Jesus says should refer to us. What does he want us to do?

“Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Repent? We have to be sorry that we don’t live our lives as best we can as the Children of God. We regret that we have made our God one that we just wind up on Sundays. We put him in a box and put him in the attic. We bring him down on weekends or maybe during the week when we want something or need him to hold our hands. We resist the God-like way we can live our lives.

We resist having to repent and people don’t like us if we preach repentance.

But look at Jonah. He washed up on the shores of Nineveh- a town that didn’t like Jews. *He* preached repentance (even though Jonah was a very reluctant witness who, himself, needed repentance.) And the people listened to his advice. They put God back into the picture of their lives. Jonah, a guy that even a whale couldn’t digest, preaches God and people listened.

So how do we “repent?” and moreover preach repentance? St. Paul says that time is running out. He says stop what we are doing in the world – doing this and doing that, and take a breath. What the heck are we doing? We have busied our lives up so much that God is an afterthought.

We here and now in this place have put on the brakes for a while. We enter the doors of our church and shut out the busyness of the world. We are here to be refreshed and to recover our lives as God-people. We are here to pump ourselves up with the ‘good news’ – the gospel message of Jesus Christ.

And now to live it.

Just as with the Bills and the Sabers and the Bandits, we are in the process. We are in the process of becoming winners in this world. We already have the prize – the prize of our gift of faith. Now we have to live it out. Show others that we are the champions.

Who are ‘we’, kimo sabe? Well we are fishermen called to be fishers of men. We are Simon, Andrew, and James and John (no-bodies really). Now called to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ and learn from him good news. It’s a process – setting aside time to pay heed to Jesus, to learn more deeply, Sunday by Sunday, how to be his followers. To help us on the way we have our Pastoral Council of the parish working on a four parish retreat and the Lenten Ecumenical Series. We have a website that, under resources, we have the link to a site called “Formed” that will help us on the way with lectures and films and religious stuff that can keep us on track.

Most of all we have family. Yes, we have our own nuclear with moms and dads and brothers and sisters and in-laws and out-laws. We also have, however, our parish family gathered here in this upper room but also on the playing field with our teammates on the ‘Blue Teams’ or going skating next Sunday as suggested by our Faith Formation Family and/or “betting” on ‘Souper-Sunday’ by betting with a can of soup on the NFC or AFC as the winner of the game. The house is the winner

With the soup going to the Stan Zynda Food Pantry of the Parish.

We all walk as champions holding up the victory cup of the ‘Good News’ for all to see. If we highlight it in our lives, people will notice and want to be on the winning team.

“Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior.” (Psalm 25)

“I tell you, my brothers and sisters, the time is running out.” (I Corinthians 7:29)