

December 05, 2021
2nd Sunday of Advent
Bar 5:1-9
Ps 126:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5, 6
Phil 1:4-6, 8-11
Lk 3:1-6

SPOKESMAN FOR GOD AND SERVANT OF THE WORD!

What do Prophet Baruch, St. Paul, and John the Baptist have in common?

There are two things that are common to Prophet Baruch, St. Paul, and John the Baptist based on the Word proclaimed. Let me share it with you.

1. **They were all spokesmen for God.** As we all know, a spokesman is someone who speaks on behalf of another or others. He is the voice that represents the other person or group of people. Before he speaks, he needs to know and understand the heart and mind of the person or group he is speaking for. To do otherwise is an insult to the person or people he is representing.

Prophet Baruch, St. Paul, and John the Baptist knew and understood their role and responsibility as spokesmen for God. They were cognizant of the fact that the message they were going to proclaim was God's message. They were aware that they were just the 'mouthpiece' of God to the world. And that's what we have heard in the 1st reading, 2nd reading, and the Gospel proclaimed.

Listen again to what John the Baptist said as he echoed the words of the Prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert: **"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."**

2. **They were servants of the Word.** These people were not just "parroting" God's word. No, they were servants of the Word in a deeper sense – meaning, they took God's word to heart. They allowed the Word to form and transform them. They permitted the Word to purify them. They granted the Word to strengthen and guide them in their journey. Thus, both their actions and words demonstrated service and love for the Word.

We have heard and read the Word numerous times. Some of us have memorized it already. Nevertheless, let us examine/scrutinize our hearts and ask: **Have we allowed the Word to form and transform us to be real stewards of the Gospel? Have we allowed the Word to purify our intentions? Is there a particular chapter or verse in the scripture/bible that serves as our guidepost in our faith-life journey? What chapter or verse is it? Have we shared it with others especially to our family members? When was the last time we speak**

for God?

Prophet Baruch, St. Paul, and John the Baptist were spokesmen for God. They were humble servants of the Word. What they did is not impossible for us to do. We are capable of it if we want too.

Let me remind you that by virtue of our baptism, we, too, are called to do the same. We have the obligation/responsibility to speak for God. We must be His spokesmen/women to others. We must be servants of His Word.

You see, to be a Christian is not easy. We have responsibilities to do. St. Augustine speaks of these responsibilities well by saying: **"A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps."** Just listening to what St. Augustine said is really daunting, **isn't it?** Perhaps, this is one of the reasons why we have more **'disciples in name'** than **'intentional disciples.'**

We are now on the 2nd Sunday of our preparation for Christ's birthday. **Can we make this Christmas 2021 more meaningful than our previous 'Christmases' by becoming more intentional in speaking for God and serving His Word? Can we imitate Prophet Baruch, St. Paul, and John the Baptist about doing our Catholic Christian responsibilities/obligations as spokesmen/women for God and servants of the Word? Can we make this as our birthday gift to Christ Jesus starting today?** Perhaps, we will ask: **Father, how can we be spokesmen/women for God?** If you are on social media like Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, or TikTok, use it to share God's Word! Instead of spreading negative words about people you don't like on your FB wall, **why not spread the Gospel?** Instead of always taking selfie, **why not share the picture and story of our Catholic saints?** Share our daily Mass 'live streaming' so people may know we have Mass here every day and it is free! Use the social media to catechize others about our Catholic faith. (***Blessed Carlo Acutis*** (May 03, 1991 - Oct 12, 2006), a 15-year-old Italian Catholic who died of leukemia, used the social media to spread the Eucharistic miracles that had happened around the world. He was beatified last October 10, 2020.)

As we continue our Eucharistic celebration, we ask the Lord Jesus to help us in carrying out our responsibilities/obligations as baptized Catholic Christians. May we have the courage to be spokesmen/women for Him and humble servants of His Word.

God bless and stay safe!