

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

February 18, 2024 • 1st Sunday of Lent • Mark 1:12-15

Believing in the Good News

Mark's account of Jesus being tempted in the desert is very short, only two sentences long. However, it is just as clear from this telling of the story as it is in the longer versions that Jesus leaves the desert with a strong message.

Jesus' words, "repent, and believe in the good news," need to be elaborated on if we want to understand what Jesus is asking of us. "Repent" means more than counting up our sins and saying we are sorry. To repent means to take a serious look at not just what we have done, but the person we have become.

Jesus is asking us to pay attention to how we are living our lives. How do we see ourselves? What are we all about? Why do we go to work, clean the house or shuffle the kids to scouts and soccer? What is our purpose?

In this world, we are often identified by what we do and what we have. We are a success if we have a good job, make a lot of money, have a house full of things. Jesus asks us to see ourselves in a different way. He asks us to see ourselves as God created us—a much-loved child, uniquely gifted, created to love as God loves. God considers us a success if—with Jesus' help—we become the person we were created to be, bringing God's love to the world.

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments; they were part of God's covenant with the chosen people.

In the new covenant Jesus tells us we are God's children. He let's us know that we are expected to do more than just follow God's law. Jesus gives us the Beatitudes, a new attitude to life. As God's children we are not only rooted in the Commandments; we are expected to carry Jesus' light and his loving, forgiving attitude to the world. That is the gospel Jesus proclaimed. This is the Good News.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Talk about what the world would be like if all Christians lived as God wants them to live.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What can you do to create greater peace and harmony in your home? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?