

[63] **THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** B

FIRST READING

The Ninevites renounced their evil ways.

A reading from the book of the prophet Jonah

3:1-5, 10

The Lord spoke to Jonah and said,
“Jonah, go to that great city of Nineveh and speak to them for me.”

Jonah obeyed the Lord and went to Nineveh.
The city was so large that it took three days just to walk through it.
After walking for a day, Jonah told the people,
“Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed.”

They believed God's message
and they set a time when they would all go without eating.
Then everyone in the city, no matter who they were,
also dressed in sackcloth.

When God saw that the people had stopped doing evil things,
he had pity on them and did not destroy them, as he had said.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

25:4-5abc, 6 and 7 cd, 8-9

R. (4a) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Show me your paths
and teach me to follow;
guide me by your truth
and instruct me.
You keep me safe.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Please, Lord, remember,
you have always
been patient and kind.

Show how truly kind you are
and remember me.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

You are honest and merciful,
and you teach sinners
how to follow your path.
You lead humble people
to do what is right
and to stay on your path.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

ALLELUIA

Mark 1:15

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The kingdom of God is near:
repent and believe the good news!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Repent and believe the good news.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

1:14-20

After John was arrested,
Jesus went to Galilee and told the good news that comes from God.
He said, "The time has come!
God's kingdom will soon be here.
Turn back to God and believe the good news!"

As Jesus was walking along the shore of Lake Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew.
They were fishermen and were casting their nets into the lake.
Jesus said to the, "Come with me!
I will teach you how to bring in people instead of fish."
Right then the two brothers dropped their nets and went with him.

Jesus walked on and soon saw James and John, the sons of Zebedee.
They were in a boat, mending their nets.
AT once Jesus asked them to come with him.
They left their father in the boat with the hired workers
and went with him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle B

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your invitation to follow you. I promise to do my best to make good choices and do good things. Thank you for always loving me.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

Readings:

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 25:4-5abc, 6 and 7cd, 8-9

Mark 1:14-20

Reflection and Discussion:

Today we hear 2 stories about God calling us to follow. Jesus invites Simon, Andrew, James and John to stop what they are doing and fish for people. Jonah tells the people of Nineveh, at God's request, to stop the bad things that they were doing and begin living good lives. Like the disciples and the people of Nineveh, God is also inviting us to stop what we are doing and follow God. Sometimes that means that we must stop doing things that are mean to ourselves or others and sometimes it means that we must start doing things that are good. What are some things that you do that God might want you to stop doing? (Give some personal examples like fighting with your sister, not listening to your parents, not including everyone in the game at recess) What are some things that you think God might want you to do to be a follower of Jesus? (Give some personal examples such as smile at someone who looks sad, call my Grandmother to say, "Hi," help my Dad clean the yard, participate at Mass every week, collect presents for hurricane victims). Keep in mind that God knows that none of us are perfect and, just like the people of Nineveh; we will be forgiven and loved even if we make mistakes as long as we say we are sorry and try to do better.

Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be "fishers of people?" How can you fish for people?
2. Because God has called you to be a follower, what one thing will you promise to stop doing this week and what one thing will you promise to do this week?

Activity:

For younger children: Play follow the leader. The leader will do things like giving hugs or handshakes, smiling at someone, telling someone that they are special, etc.

For older children: Divide the class into 2 groups. One group will create a short skit using the first reading about Jonah and the people of Nineveh. The other group will create a short skit using the gospel reading. The skits should be fun as well as insightful. One example would be to treat them as news broadcasts and have the newscaster interview the townspeople and Jonah asking how they feel and what they think as well as what is going on. Have each group perform their skits for each other at the end of the class.

(continued on page 2)

Another option:

A Fishing Game can be played using fish cut out of construction paper (non-water version) or aluminum foil (water version). Place large paperclips on the fish. Create "poles" out of dowels, pencils, shish kabob skewers, etc, with string and magnets. On each fish write a simple act that the child who catches that fish could do during the week to follow Jesus. Use permanent marker on the aluminum foil if playing the water version.