

Homily
3AdventB
Dec. 14, 2014
St. Bernard Church

Gospel:

John the Baptist says he is not the Messiah

“There is one among you who you do not recognize. “

Of course, he is referring to Jesus.

Questions

Who is Jesus? Do we recognize Him? Do we really understand and acknowledge who He is?

Every human being on the face of the earth who has heard of Jesus Christ at some point has to decide:

Do I believe in Jesus Christ? How is He connected to my life? How do I relate to Him?

Surveys show that a very small percentage of Catholics say that they have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

How would we go about knowing Him and relating to Him in a personal way?

Msgr. Gaalaas spoke last week about how each of us has to open the door to Christ from the inside, by opening the door to our hearts.

How would we do this?

There's no formula that works for everyone.

Here are some suggestions.

- 1) the Bible (we could read one of the Gospels; I would recommend starting with the Gospel of John)
- 2) Renewal programs in the Church: ACTS, Cursillo; they bring Jesus to life in us in a new way
- 3) Bishop Slattery would recommend that we gaze at a crucifix and meditate upon the suffering and death of Jesus Christ.

4) Make an act of commitment of faith in Jesus Christ

My friend, Mike

- Men's group
- Mike: issues
- Meeting at house
 - Not appreciated at work
 - Father died when he was very young
 - Got very emotional
 - "What should I do?"

Some Protestants: Saved by accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior

What do they mean?

Referring to a passage in Romans 10: if we confess with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised him from the dead, we will be saved.

Example: teen-agers saved at summer camp

Saying the "Sinners' Prayer"

"Heavenly Father, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe in you and that your word is true. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God and that he died on the cross so that I may now have forgiveness for my sins and eternal life. I know that without you in my heart my life is meaningless.

I believe in my heart that you, Lord God, raised Him from the dead. Please, Jesus, forgive me, for every sin I have ever committed or done in my heart, please Lord Jesus forgive me and come into my heart as my personal Lord and Savior today.

I give you my life and ask you to take full control from this moment on; I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ."

As Catholics, we believe that our salvation is a lifelong process that frequently involves asking Jesus to forgive us for our mistakes. There is, however, a powerful impact every time we make a sincere commitment of faith.

Our relationship with Jesus is similar to a romance between a man and a woman.

There's a point at which it's time to commit, to say, "I love you. I want to spend my life with you."

It's the same way in our relationship with Jesus.

We need to say, "I love you. I want to spend my life with you, not just here on earth but for all eternity."

We can say this anytime, in our own words, and it's good to repeat it often.

The best time to say it is when we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Just say: "Jesus, I love you. I need you. Please enter my heart. Fill me with your love, your mercy and your truth."

If we say this and really mean it, our life will be changed. Jesus will honor our commitment. He will come into our hearts in new ways. The more we surrender, the more we empty ourselves, the more He fills us with Himself.

Christmas is a good time to think about the question:

Do I love Jesus?

How could I love Him more?