

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, December 15, 2013

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on the Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

A WAKE OF GOODNESS

As a ship moves through the water it leaves a wake. In fact, sometimes it is the wake that draws our attention to a ship that otherwise might have escaped our notice.

But it is not only a ship that leaves a wake, so do people. People leave a wake behind as they move through life. We see that verified in this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11). There John the Baptist, imprisoned by King Herod, sends his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?"

John sends those disciples because he is having doubts about Jesus being "the one." Jesus is not acting as expected. He is not being the forceful, fired up leader working to liberate Israel from Roman oppression and restore its greatness.

In response, Jesus tells his questioners to report to John what they hear and see. "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Jesus points out the wake of good deeds that has resulted from his ministry. All signs that the prophet Isaiah predicted would indicate the coming of the Lord. Jesus tells his questioners – see the wake, see the signs, know the answer.

As followers of Christ, we too must leave our own wake of goodness as we move through life. Our deeds of kindness and compassion, our acts of forgiveness and mercy, our efforts for peace and justice, and our sense of joy and hope are the wake that we need to produce as we interact with our families, our neighbors, our society, and our world.

It was the wake of goodness that Jesus generated that led people to look up and recognize that he was something more than just another rabbi, just another preacher. This Advent season and every season, Christians have to do the same. It is the wake of goodness that we produce that will catch the attention of people and lead them to recognize that the Jesus we follow truly is "the one."

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