

Rectoría de San Juan de Dios
II Sunday of Advent-Cycle B
Is 40, 1-5.9-11; Ps 85; 2 Pt 3, 8-14; Mk 1, 1-8
Fr Dante Gabriel Jiménez Muñoz Ledo

The Last Prophets

The beginning of the Gospel of Mark gives us a panoramic view of the office of prophet: on one side the promise in the voice of the Prophet Isaiah, whom we can consider as the last of the Old Testament prophets, and on the other, John the Baptist, whom we can consider as the first of the New Testament Prophets.

Mark shows that both prophets are in perfect sequence. He says, "*As a fulfillment of this prophecy, John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*" But, at the same time, it is clear that messianic prophecy has reached its peak.

A good question arises this Sunday: are we, the Christians of the second millennium, waiting for a new prophet?

The answer is negative: we are not waiting for a prophet in the style of Isaiah or John the Baptist. With the arrival of Christ, that prophetic office came to an end; those prophets were called for that purpose.

In Christ we know the fullness of the Revelation, the fullness of salvation and of communication with God.

But, will there be more prophets among us? Yes, we ourselves, we who have been reached by Christ are the new and *last prophets*, with the mission of announcing Christ

who died and rose again and of communicating to the world the experience of love in our encounter with Him.

How important it is that we perceive ourselves as the *last prophets*, as those whose turn it is to inform the world of the salvific realities of God and of His calling to a life of full communion with Him in the final stage of history!

Being aware this Sunday that we are the last prophets, what do we experience? Probably commitment, joy, hope, etc.

In the middle of a world of false prophets, a world that needs to make its paths straight by way of the word of hope and truth, we want to be the *last prophets*. In order to achieve that, the Spirit of God is letting you know something in your heart, but here we propose three actions that can help us:

1-Let us come out of servitude.

In our daily life, we are enslaved by so many things that don't permit us to transcend and share the mystery that we carry within us!

The canticle of Isaiah is beautiful in its provocation: *end the time of your servitude*. In this new time, it is necessary to prepare the way of the Lord, to go up the mountain and announce the joyful news.

If we look at our lives, it is probable that each of us will encounter more than one servitude: someone with a vice, simple hopelessness, the poverty of living love that at times degenerates into egotism or in a tendency to possessiveness. We would have to ask, what are our servitudes and how can we get out of them?

The announcement of joyful news is born from the experience of being loved by God, of being held in the arms of the Shepherd.

2- Let us faithfully maintain the vital elements.

When Peter talks to us about the moral consequences of waiting for the Lord and his own expectation of a new heaven and a new earth and presents the day of the Lord to us as a cataclysm in which the elements of nature will be destroyed, which elements is he referring to? It is probable that he is referring to everything we are familiar with: earth, water, air, fire, and to everything that without which life is not possible.

We can make the effort to uphold the elements of the spiritual life. As the *last prophets*, we keep alive the only thing that can sustain the life of many in times of catastrophe of faith. It seems that we are in a time in which this is particularly important: to present the essence of the life and love of God from our testimony and holiness.

3-Let us rectify our conduct.

The central message of the Word of God this Sunday is the change of direction. It seems that, as the years and our lives go along, many times we lose the way.

John the Baptist is an attractive and radical image of change in a life, including the cancellation of our former injustices. Leave the city and go out into the desert to break with the injustice of society; understand that personal injustices have contributed to societal injustices.

Do you remember the last time that you corrected your path? What did you experience when you corrected your life?

Let's hope that the simplicity of a figure like the Baptist and the conviction of being the last prophets, leads us to communicate with testimony and truth the authenticity of our faith and of our hope, in the exercise of love.