

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

PREPARING THE WAY:

It is quite common in Africa whenever a political or Religious leader is visiting a place, a lot of preparation is done to welcome him. Flowers, banana trunks, road repair of potholes which have never been repaired since independence!!! Everything comes to a stand still awaiting this so-called dignitary. Today we are being called to prepare for an especially important Dignitary in our life in person of **Our Lord Jesus Christ**.

The Prophet Isaiah in the first reading is giving a message of **Hope** and **Consolation** to the Israelites in exile in Babylon. They were desperate and seeing very slim chance of their return, they had lost hope. The prophet assures them that God is about to come to their rescue and lead them back to their land. There is going to be a second **Exodus for them**. The reading is leading to a call for repentance. They are being called to make a highway for their God. The Highway to be made is to straighten their way of life. This is the link with the Gospel today, **PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD**.

John like Isaiah is calling for repentance in preparation for the Messiah. He urges the people to prepare for the imminent coming of the Savior by **Radical conversion**. John, the forerunner of the Messiah,

-Calls for an end to the reign of sin,

-Calls for repentance,

-Calls for fasting, cleansing, uprightness, and conversion.

He is putting across the fact that the path of wicked is dark, slippery, and crooked and leads to stumbling and falling thus leading to doom. Hence, conversion is needed. If there is anything to be straightened in our life today it should be **A Bad Attitude, Bad Behavior and Bad Relationships**.

We have really a lot to learn from John the Baptist like

- ***Commitment to our duty as disciples of Christ.***
- ***Self-Discipline and sacrifice in whatever we do.***
- ***Living what we preach.***
- ***Humility. He recognized that Jesus was more important than him. He stepped aside when Jesus surfaced. He allowed Jesus to shine.***
- ***Generosity, he invited the people to the feast.***
- ***Courage, he died a martyr's death in witnessing to Christ.***

These are real great virtues which build the Christian character. We must sacrifice like John to give others a bright future. The call is caring about the well-being of others. The call is to prepare for the coming of our Savior by straightening our crooked ways and repairing them.

This is the call for Advent .