

BULLETIN REFLECTION

JAN 24 2021...3RD SUNDAY ORD TIME...MK 1, 14-20

Today's gospel is the same as that of last week's. The difference is this; last week John was still a freeman roaming around preaching in fact he was able to lead his two disciples to Jesus and today John had already been arrested (cf. V. 14).

Today's gospel is divided into two; 1. About the arrest of John and 2. The call of the first disciples. I wish to zero in in the arrest of John as an introductory scenario for Jesus as He begins His public ministry.

With the arrest of John the Baptist, Mark is presenting us that John is true to the description 'forerunner'...'somebody would come mightier than me and I am not worthy to loosen even the thongs of his sandals'. **After preparing the coming of the Messiah, John has to exit from the scene and let Jesus take now the center stage so to speak** (in cinematic term shall I say). But the question is 'Why is it that the reality of John's exit was so cruel...would it not be possible with just a plain and simple exit?'

In every endeavor, there are always 'what if'...what if your plan has so many ways to fulfill it-this is easy to face... and what if your plan has so many obstacles-oh boy that's not easy thing to do! This is now the opening scenario of Jesus's public Galilean ministry (He might want to sit down and reflect about this). If the presenting situation is already a difficulty, what would you do-give up?

Using the language of the modern world...'no pain no gain'...and Jesus has also a saying 'No Good Friday No Easter Sunday.' It was indeed intimidating statement to welcome Jesus in His public ministry and He never gave up...He proceeded...He fulfilled the will of the Father who sent Him to this world-to preach that the Kingdom of God is at hand.