

December 6, 2015
The Forgiveness Business

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

LOOK

The word repentance comes from the Greek word “metanoia” which literally means “to change the mind”. Reread the collect above replacing the word repentance with “changing our minds”.

1. What does repentance have to do with changing our minds?
2. We spend a lot of time and energy trying to change other people’s minds. Is this helpful? Why or why not?
3. Tell about a time when God changed your mind about something.

BOOK Luke 3:1-6

All 4 Gospels include the story of John the Baptist preparing the way for our Savior.

1. Luke introduces John the Baptist by anchoring him firmly in history. Why is John’s ministry so crucial in our preparation to meet Jesus?
2. What is John’s main message?
3. What words of the prophet Isaiah particularly move you and why?

TOOK

In his sermon, Father Ron said that the church is not in the business of morality. Instead we are in the business of forgiveness.

1. What are the dangers in worrying about morality instead of forgiveness?
2. How would it change the way we do church if we really embraced being in the forgiveness business?
3. Where is God working to change your mind? If you feel comfortable, share and pray about these as you close today.