



Third Sunday of Advent

Luke 3: 10-16

And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" "And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do."

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Some things to think about...

In this reading, John the Baptist speaks to three different groups of people who, in some ways, hold power over others. His core message to each group is to be just and to share what they have with others. If your Mini Vinnies group were to ask John the Baptist 'What should we do?', what do you think he would say?

Activity

Think of three groups of people in our society who are in positions of power (e.g. parents, politicians, teachers, company bosses etc.)

Draw and label a picture of each of these groups in the middle of separate pieces of large paper. For each group, write some of the things you think John the Baptist would say to them if they were to ask him "What should we do?"

Teacher's Notes

In this reading, different groups in the crowd ask for direction from John the Baptist as to how they should live. John the Baptist's answers focus on being kind, just, and virtuous. John the Baptist tells the crowd that they should share what they have with others.

An important element of the St Vincent de Paul Society's Mission Statement is to encourage members to share who they are and what they have with the poor on a person-to-person basis. As Christians and as members of Mini Vinnies, we are asked to share our time and possessions with others, especially at Christmas.

You may wish to read the following to students to get them to focus on some of the small ways that they can share with others:

I was hungry and you shared your lunch with me;

I was thirsty and you gave me half your drink;

I was cold and you loaned me your jumper;

I was different and you told the others not to make fun of me;

I was sick and you explained my homework to me;

I was lonely and you invited me into your group of friends.

As long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.

Notes: