

Lectio Divina

- > **Read and re-read**, out loud and slowly the Gospel
 - > **Meditate** on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life
 - > **Pray** - Thanksgiving - Repentance - Petition
 - > **Action** - Attitude (Call to change / to act / to do)
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December 4th 2016 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A - Matthew 3:1 - 12

This Sunday's gospel is a long passage with many themes. We read of John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness. He is wearing the garments which were the traditional garments of the prophets. His diet is simple and taken from his environment. He also reminds us that religious leadership carries a great responsibility and often the danger of complacency. As John baptises he tells the people that the one who follows him will be the more powerful and that he is not fit to carry his sandals, he will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. This shows the humility of John not taking credit for his good deeds but acknowledging the fact that he listens to God and relies on Him for guidance. Are we complacent as we carry out our reasonability as religious leaders? When people see our actions and hear our words do they see the message of Jesus coming through just as we are witnessing from Pope Francis in his modest ways?

Prayer:

Lord we thank you for great leaders like Pope Francis who like John the Baptist is preaching to the wilderness of the modern world with the knowledge that Jesus is there helping and guiding him.

Forgive us for the times that we allowed evil to discourage us and for the times that we got too big for our boots thinking we were better than others. Lord help us not to be discouraged by the evil within ourselves, the church community and the whole of society because as with John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness, Jesus is present and all we need to do is open ourselves to his presence.

