

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, December 5, 2021
Second Sunday of Advent
Cycle C

Kate was given a role in their school Christmas presentation. It went like this:

The teacher began: "A long time ago, Mary and Joseph had a baby and they named him Jesus." She continued, "And when Jesus was born, a bright star appeared over the stable." At that cue, Kate got up, picked up a large tinfoil star, walked behind Mary and Joseph and held the star up high for everyone to see. When the teacher talked about the shepherds coming to see the baby, the three young shepherds came forward, and Kate jiggled the star up and down excitedly to show them where to come. When the Wisemen responded to this cue, Kate came forward to meet them and to lead the way. After the play, and on the way home, Kate said to her parents: "I had the main part." "You did?" her mom questioned, wondering why she thought she had the main part. "Yes," Kate said, "because I showed everybody how to find Jesus."

How true! To show others how to find Jesus, to point to Jesus that is the greatest role we can play in life. But, of course, the question is: Is that the role you are choosing to play? On this Second Sunday of Advent, the gospel gives us the person of John the Baptist who played that role. Jesus has this to say about him: "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist." What is it that made John so great? We can point to two things in particular.

- The first has to do with his calling.
- The second has to do with his virtue.

First of all, John was great because he was the transition from the Old Testament Prophets to the New Testament. He was the bridge that prepared for the new life to come. His unique mission makes him truly great. Secondly, John was also great because of the virtue he had in his life. And it is this gift that is worth pondering for our own inspiration. The particular virtue that John had was that of humility.

He saw himself as nothing other than a "voice of one crying out in the desert." And the Word he spoke was Jesus. (John Paul Thomas). John acknowledged that he was not even worthy to stoop down and untie the sandal straps of Jesus. He was praised by many and followed by many and yet he continuously said of Jesus that "He must increase and I must decrease." (John 3:30). John was not in it for praise and honor. Rather, his mission was to point everyone to the Savior of the world. He could have sought the honor and praise of many and he would have

certainly received it. People who admired him may have even made him king. But John was more than willing to fulfill his mission and then submit himself to the cruel sword of his executioner.

His humility was such that he was focused only on Jesus and desired only to point to Christ. (John Paul Thomas). HUMILITY. This is one of the more important things that we must dwell on this Advent season. Do we have the humility of John the Baptist? Do we have the humility to make our life all about Jesus and all for Jesus? To point to Jesus rather than to ourselves? To dedicate ourselves to Christ's mission rather than to our personal ambition? To humbly point all praise and glory to the Lord rather than seek the admiration and esteem of others? Do we have the humility to dedicate our lives to preparing the way of the Lord, as John the Baptist did?

Humility is the path that John took. And it is the path we must strive to take for each and every day.

Let us end with a prayer:

Lord God, help us to find the meaning and purpose of our life in pointing others to Jesus, and in leading them to find Christ. May we not get caught up with our own ambition, lest we set aside this great mission. Make our whole life only about Jesus and only for Jesus. Amen.

Amen