

Advent Catechesis: the Second Week *A Time to Repent*

Scripture Readings

Sunday Lectionary: Matthew 3: 1-12

Weekday Readings:

Monday: Jesus' Baptism: Matthew 3.11-17

Tuesday: Announcing the Kingdom: Matthew 4.12-17

Wednesday: Jesus Condemns the Cities: Matt 11.16-24

Thursday: The Parable of the Clean and Unclean: Matthew 15:10-20

Friday: The Parable of the Wedding Feast: Matthew 22.1-14

Saturday: Peter's Denial: Matthew 26.69-75

Turning Points: Major Mile Markers of Life

Metanoia (μετάνοια): repentance, a change of mind, turning around

An Exercise: Focused Attention vs Diffuse Attention

The Preaching of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ: Matthew 3:1-6 & 4:12-17

Biblical Interpretative Steps

What did it mean then?

What can it mean now – finding the universal elements in a passage that apply to today

What can it mean to me? – prayerful meditation and *lectio divina*

Why control? A simple review of hermeneutical history

Additional Control: Regula Fidei (rule of faith) – i.e. The Creed

What did it mean then?

People enter the kingdom through *metanoia*.

What does it mean now?

The kingdom is still at hand, and we are still called to *metanoia*.

What can it mean to me?

How do I repent, or turn around, in the simple things in life?

What connects to the creed?

His kingdom will have no end. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

Questions to Ponder:

How did John say they were to get ready for Jesus? (Matthew 3:7-10)

What is the connection between repentance and baptism? Why would Jesus submit himself to John's baptism "with water, for repentance?" Does this tell us something about the nature of the Kingdom?

What does the call to repentance say to you personally? How can I help others experience repentance and transformation?

How does recitation of the creed every week serve as an act of *metanoia* – particularly a change of mind?