

Dec. 6, 2015 “How are You Preparing for Christmas?” based on Luke 3:1-6

Preparation is important!

- we prepare our homes.
- story of life, preparing ourselves for what is to come.
- also, the story of Scripture – preparation.

People took a ‘ho-hum’ attitude toward John the Baptist

- they were descendents of Abraham, the chosen people.
- they would recognize the signs of the ‘coming kingdom’.

Miss the point if we limit our thoughts to Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem

- echo of John’s voice should be dying in the distance
- more urgent today than ever

What is John’s word of preparation?

- prepare the way through continual repentance and renewal.
- must receive forgiveness and acceptance by God

God’s saving plan just begins with ‘birth of Christ’.

- like a house or car, it continues after built.
- God’s plan continues to unfold, even today.
- we await its conclusion

In the meantime Christianity demands an openness to God.

- make sure we’re following Christ of the Church and not the Christ of our own making.
- examine hearts, study priorities, serve with genuine love.
- need to bend proud knees, bow stiff necks, open clenched hands, and receive the Gift God offers.
- Today’s Sacrament is guarantee that God is serious when God promises new life!