



December 17, 2017 Third Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 8 Gospel JN 1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?" He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Christ." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'*" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Spiritual Reflection:

"To become a saint, it is only necessary for you to fulfill your present responsibility. The discovery and revelation of this fact will bring peace and encouragement to your soul." - Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. John the Baptist succeeded in being holy by being the best version of himself that he could be. He knew he was not Elijah and he knew he was not the messiah. Are you the best version of yourself?

Spiritual Questions:

1. What do you think success is?
2. Who defines success for you?
3. Are you the best version of yourself?
4. What can you do to improve?
5. What sins hamper you?