

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time B - 2012
Jonah 3.1-5,10///1 Cor. 7.29-31///Mark 1/14-20

→how much time have we got left on this earth?

→have you ever stopped and wondered how much time you have left?

→does anybody know →how much time is left?

→if you park downtown in a big city...its easy to tell how much time you have left...especially on the meter

→→there is 345/344 days left in the year57 days until it is Spring!

→[and] there is approximately 5 minutes left in this homily! (so now you know)

→so [I ask once again]...how much time have we got left?

→there's really no way to know how much time we've got left

→people who are terminally ill are sometimes given a guess...six months, maybe a year

→those who aren't sick could be hit by a car at anytime

→and so [in reality] there's no way to know when you think about it

→you could call the Psychic Friends Network or take a guess --- or make some predictions on your own.....

→but in the end...again who knows...we really just don't know how much time we got left on this earth....

→which is [however] →unlike the people of Nineveh in today's first reading

→they were told they had 40 days...and Jonah of course, wanted nothing to do with the Ninevites...they were sinners...the scum of the earth...[Jonah thought] they should get what they deserve

→and so, as we know, Jonah at first, ran away, refusing to deliver God's ultimatum

---So God had Jonah shipwrecked, swallowed up by a giant fish and then spit out on the shores of Nineveh anyway.

→and by the time we get today's reading, Jonah has given up..so he goes through the town doing what God wants him to do

→and strangely enough, the people of Nineveh repent

→they stop sinning and even more startling...they make a public display of their repentance

→they changed their lives completely // and in 40 days God forgave them

→[and] ----in the second reading, St. Paul in writing to the people of Cornith..also tries to explain that they too, were facing a deadline.

→Paul writes as if there is not much time left ---////---he clearly expects that Jesus is about to return...so he recommends that they live without becoming overly attached to their lives....[he writes] "time is running out...the world in its present form is passing away" ////

→and the point Paul is making is that.....instead of becoming so attached to things of this world we should attach ourselves to Christ

PAUSE

→and finally in the Gospel, we hear Jesus even proclaiming that the reign of God is at hand...that time is running out...[and that] it is time to repent and believe in the Good News.

---which brings me back to my original question...how much time is left for us...another day, another month, another year...10, 20, 50 years????.

all three readings today speak of the urgency to do what is right in the time that is left

→to repent and live the message of Christ

→to attach ourselves to Christ and to his words and to his message

→all three readings [today] are calling the people...the Ninevites, the Corithians and the people and disciples of Christ.....to a different way of life before time runs out

→and so are we //// being called to a different way of life before our time runs out as well

...to a life of forgiveness

...to a life of compassion, of patience and understanding

...to a life of justice and respect

we are being called to a life of rooted in Jesus Christ...to a life rooted in faith...to a life rooted in the gospel

PAUSE

[you know] →all too often, as people, we seem to ONLY realize how good we have it, how fortunate we are and how blessed we have been always when its too late

→time seems to always run out on us before we realize what we are suppose to be about, who we are, and what our purpose is in this life and world

→and so perhaps, what we are really being told today through these scripture readings is that [maybe] it should be different when it comes our life with Christ, our life of faith, our relationship with one another and our relationship with God.

→perhaps today we are meant to be warned like the Ninevites, the Corinthians and the disciples of Christ...

and realize now [and today] what we have,

realize now [and today] who we are

realize now [and today] what we are to be about

→perhaps now is the time to realize the presence of kingdom of God in our midst

.... →now is the time to realize our need to repent

and now is the time to realize the presence of Christ in our lives and in one another

→instead of letting it become just like everything else in life.....[including this homily].....

and waiting until there is no time left, or even worse

→waiting until our time is up!