



BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

2023

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 64

Gospel Jn 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.' I did not know him, but the reason why I came baptizing with water was that he might be made known to Israel." John testified further, saying, "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven and remain upon him. I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."



Spiritual Reflection: The writer C.S. Lewis wrote: "Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." It may have been one thing for John the Baptist to be humble before meeting Jesus but John remains humble even after baptizing Jesus.

Spiritual Questions:

1. Compare and contrast John the Baptist and Herod (from the story of Jesus' birth).
2. Why is John the Baptist humble enough to admit that he is not the messiah? Do you think it had anything to do with being told stories of his birth and how his father (Zechariah) had been struck mute for not believing the angel Gabriel?
3. Do you think Elizabeth informed John about how he leaped for joy in her womb when Jesus came in Mary's womb at the visitation?
4. What stories can we tell to help people come to believe Jesus is the Messiah?
5. Who ended up being happier for eternity – John the Baptist or Herod?