

Touching the Untouchables

Read: Luke 4: 14-21

Are you a news junkie?

Today we get news from around the world so easily. We read newspapers in print and online, see and listen to 24/7 TV news channels, tune to our car radio and check our news apps installed on smart phones. We also share and like news through social networking website such as Facebook. If we examine this news, we notice that some of the news that reaches us are so small and insignificant to be considered news. How about some of that news was headlines from the Bible? Now that is news that is still important and inspires us today.



In the Bible portion Luke 4:14-21, Jesus is referring to the text from Isaiah 61:1-2. He says his mission is to proclaim the good news to the poor, freedom for the prisoners, recovery of sight for the blind and released the oppressed. Jesus is talking about freedom or deliverance. When we think about freedom we think about a license to do as we wish. However, the freedom that we understand from this passage is a change in condition. This change happens to a person in his life when he receives the good news. A deliverance for those oppressed by sin and guilt. The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses us from all sin. We have been transformed from captives into free people, let us live in thankfulness, and transform our brothers and sisters through love and forgiveness.

Lent provides a focused opportunity for us to practice freedom. It is because we are set free by Christ that we are able to obediently deny ourselves and be conformed to the image of Christ. Just as practice provides the athlete a focused time of intense work to improve his skill that he might be prepared for the heat of competition, so Lent allows us time to practice conformity to Christ so that, in the moment of crisis through trials or when our hearts are tempted, we will know what it feels like to be faithful; and we will be able to live in it.

Through daily reading of Bible and prayer, God gives us new strength to overcome temptation. He also opens our eyes to see His Blessings and be thankful for it. We are not just waiting to die! We are looking forward to eternal life. As we together meditate on various topics during these Lenten days, may we keep to our God-given mission, doing our part to share the Good News by denying ourselves in humility.