

Mk 1:7-11; Isa 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38 Beloved of God

On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove descending upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, “you are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased” (Mk 1:10-11).

In that moment Jesus realizes He is Beloved of God. God is in Him and He is in God. He is God. And God [has] anointed Jesus...with the Holy Spirit and power (Acts 10:38).

He is called to something bigger than Himself—He is called to be a part of God’s victory of justice (Isa 42:6)—the victory of love and mercy over sin and evil.

He is immersed in the Holy Spirit of God so that God is in Him...and He is in God...thinking like God, talking like God, loving and forgiving like God.

His heart is set on fire with the power and love of God. So much so, that He will do what God will do: *He [will go] about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God [is] with him (Acts 10:38).*

Suddenly...all the love God gave Jesus: all the beautiful places He has seen, His parent’s love for him, the education He received, His talents, every good thing that has ever happened in his life—

--things that made him smile, laugh and even cry, His relationship with God, and now God’s Holy Spirit and God’s power inside of Him—cannot be kept to Himself. He must use it to love and serve others.

He is beloved of God because He is the love of God and He must share that love with others.

So He will love us the way God loves Him. We are first and He is second—always. We are more important to Jesus than his own life (Jn 15:13). That is the way God loves Jesus and that is the way God loves us through Jesus.

Ever do something really dumb? And you feel like a real fool, a failure, a loser. And suddenly somebody like your spouse or maybe a parent says: “that’s not so bad, let’s learn from that and we’ll do better next time!”

You're overwhelmed with joy and peace because they "saved" your dignity. And they must really love you. That...is God loving you through that person. And now God wants to love others the same way through you.

What happened then...is happening now. It happened when you were baptized. And it is happening now to you in this mass.

On that altar—the bread and wine will be transformed by the Holy Spirit into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. And from that altar—you will put Jesus Christ inside of you. You too...will be anointed with the Holy Spirit of God and the power of God—inside of you.

You will be immersed in the Holy Spirit of Jesus so that Jesus is in you...and you are in Jesus...thinking like Jesus, talking like Jesus, loving and forgiving like Jesus.

Your heart will be set on fire with the power and love of Jesus Christ. So much so, that you will do what Jesus will do: You will go about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil because Jesus Christ is with you.

You are beloved of God. You are called to something bigger than yourself—you are called to be a part of God's victory of Justice—the victory of love and mercy over sin and evil.

You are beloved of God because you are the love of God and you must share that love with others.

Suddenly...all the love God gave you--the beautiful places you have been, the education you received, the love your parents gave you, your talents, every good thing that ever happened in your life—

--things that made you smile, laugh and even cry, your relationship with God, and now God's Holy Spirit and power inside of you—you cannot keep that to yourself. You must use it to love and serve others. How?

In the first reading God made a promise about Jesus. Now God is making the same promise about you: *I, the Lord, have called you for the victory of justice (Isa 42:6)—the victory of love and mercy over sin and evil.*

God said: *A bruised reed he shall not break and a smoldering wick He shall not quench, until he establishes justice on the earth (Isa 42:3-4).* Jesus never pushed Himself on others. He drew people to God by loving them.

In the second reading St. Peter realizes that Cornelius' household of Gentiles have responded and live according to the light of Christ inside of every heart (Acts 10:34-35).

So never push your faith on others. Draw them to Jesus by loving them and let them respond by their own free will to the light of Christ in every heart.

God said: *I, the Lord have called you...[to be] a light for the nations (Isa 42:6), to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out prisoners from confinement, and from the dungeon, those who live in darkness (Isa 42:7).*

Open the eyes of anyone who is blind to Jesus. Give them the eyes of faith by sharing what Jesus has done for you.

Liberate anyone held captive by sin, addictions, poverty, afflictions, injustice, and the devil. Heal them by loving them, praying for them and caring for them.

Liberate anyone trapped in the darkness of a life without meaning and purpose. Bring them to Jesus Christ—by what you say, by what you do, and by the way you live your life.

What happened then...is happening now. God is anointing you with His Holy Spirit and His power. God is sending you into the world for His victory of love and mercy over sin and evil.

Work with Jesus—through Him, with Him, and in Him to do good for others and liberate them from evil. Because God has already spoken: *You are my beloved...with you I am well pleased.*