

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK21

“Repent and believe in the gospel.”

Mark 1: 15

Each year we commonly make New Year’s resolutions. We do this because we realize that sometimes we have slipped into patterns or habits of acting that are not good for us or helpful or beneficial. And so we recognize the need to make a change and we “resolve” at the beginning of the new year to make the necessary adjustments in our lives. A new year provides the opportunity for a new beginning.

Well, the Church does something very similar each year forty days before the Holy Week Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday culminating in the great feast of Easter. Easter is the triumphant victory of Jesus Christ over the powers of death that sin unleashed in our world. Easter is the ultimate new beginning. The death and resurrection of Jesus are the beginning of this ultimate new beginning. But for this reality to have a profound effect on my life and your life we have to do some prep work. There are some changes that we have to make.

When Jesus began his public ministry he did so with a very simple message. “There is God. God has a kingdom. The Kingdom of God is at hand. You are all invited to live in God’s Kingdom. Repent and believe in the good news.” Repent. Change your ways. Make a course correction. Stop living a me-centered way of life. Live humbly. Ask for God’s forgiveness and assistance. This is the message from Jesus himself two thousand years ago. It is the message of his church today. Take personal stock. What attitude or habit needs to go? Ask for the Lord to help you make the change. Can you do that for Lent? That is the question of the week.