

January 7, 2008  
Monday after the Epiphany

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

1 John 3:22-4:6

Psalm 2:7bc-8, 10-12a

Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25

*From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

While I quote from the gospel, the first reading really speaks to me about it's meaning. John tells us what it means to repent: To become a believer of Jesus, to learn to love as Jesus loved, to serve as Jesus served, to forgive as Jesus forgave, to show mercy and compassion...this is the stuff of true repentance. A sorrowful heart alone is not enough; to truly repent we must turn our lives around. I cannot imagine what a surprise this message was to the people of Jesus' day. It continues to surprise us as well.

*Beloved: We receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit whom he gave us.*

Is my life really rooted in Jesus? Or, is it rooted in the pleasures of this world?  
What am I hanging onto that I need to let go if I am to turn my life around?