

December 15, 2007  
Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

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

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

Sirach 48: 1-4, 9-11

Psalm 80: 2ac & 3b, 15-16, 18-19

Matthew 17: 9a, 10-13

*Blessed is he who shall have seen you [and who falls asleep in your friendship.*

*He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. [So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands."*

The readings today call me to reflect on the many ways we---I, do not recognize the prophets in my midst. I go around wondering where God is in the midst of whatever difficulty I see in my life or in our world, and far too often miss the call of today's John the Baptist showing me the signs, the way and calling me to prepare myself for the coming of Christ. Following Jesus is not easy. Thomas Merton is credited with saying that we might want to think carefully about intrusting our lives to the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit will ask us to die. I remember in college a friend pointedly informed me that I had gained a bit too much weight. I remember being taken back by such a bold statement, but I also remember being grateful for I had abandoned the path of good health for the path of self-gratification. There have been many other similar times of challenge. These friends have been John the Baptist to me because they have the pointed to the right path and called me to change my direction and the treasure of my heart to something more real. I am grateful to those who have called me to change in my past and I am grateful for those God will put in my life to do that in the future. In spite of the discomfort that challenge brings, we all need John the Baptist in our live calling us to Prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus, pointing the way, the right path. So, within the call to prepare myself for Christ's coming in my life, is the call to listen, to be alert, to open my heart, to be ready to embrace a new way of life.

*Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will.*

[- St. Bede