

Second Hand Preacher

The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 2015

Acts 10:34-38

Today we read from the Acts of the Apostles that was written by St. Luke as a continuation of his Gospel. This work is a spiritual history of the early Church. It features primarily the lives of St. Peter and St. Paul telling of how they brought people to Christ. In this week's reading, Peter is addressing those who long to be faithful to Jesus in the house of Cornelius. Peter preaches to them in order that the true identity of Jesus Christ may be revealed to them. To do this, John the Baptist is shown to have a role in salvation history. John preached how Jesus of Nazareth was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit and power. Jesus went around doing good and healing those oppressed by the Devil. The baptism of Jesus brought about the recognition of his mission in the world. John assisted in making Jesus known.

The baptism of Jesus brought the Holy Spirit into a sacramental notion of this action. On the faith of our parents, the Holy Spirit touched us in baptism. In the waters of baptism our original sin was wiped away and we were given new life in the Spirit. The grace was offered in the moment and we are called to receive it every day of our lives. We never stop receiving this grace. We receive the elements of grace in the Body and Blood of Jesus through Holy Communion. Our faith is reconfirmed with a full outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. John the Baptist so faithfully preached the grace of Jesus in his own time. The prophets did the preaching before the time of Christ. Countless numbers of people have been called to spread the message of Christian grace throughout the centuries. It has come through the magisterium and through many varied voices. Grace is sacramentally given at these times but every day we are called to live God's amazing grace.