

Whole New Approach First Week of Advent Tuesday, December 5, 2017 8:15 AM
Is 11:1-10; **Lk 10:21-24** (Advent is for working along with the God, who is trying to prepare us for something totally new.)

“For I say to you, many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.”

The question is: did the disciples appreciate, **did they appreciate what they were seeing and hearing?** Did they realize how blessed they were? **From their behavior subsequently we tend to doubt it.** Nonetheless, Luke shares with us this really wonderful story.

Now if the disciples didn't quite appreciate what Jesus was saying and what they were hearing and seeing, **the reason is very simply explained by going back to the beginning of Jesus' mission.** When he started preaching he said, “Repent,” which is an English word, but in Greek *metanoia*. **It means go beyond your mind.** It could also mean **enlarge your mind.** *Meta* could either mean beyond or bigger.

Now that means that in order to see what is to be seen and to hear what is to be heard we need something bigger than our ordinary way of thinking and seeing and hearing. **We need a new mind or a spiritual mind.** This is a sort of **conversion or transformation** of what you might call our ordinary mental faculties. Did the disciples actually have that transformation already? Probably not. **The indications are that came later with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.**

So what about **disciples today?** We go through the same growing process, and it is not instantaneous. The gift of the Spirit comes at a certain point, yes, but it does not come unprepared for. **We need preparation.** That's why we have seasons like **Advent and Lent** to drill down into who we are and how we have been. Notice the Opening Prayer of the liturgy: **“Help us not be encumbered by our former ways.”** Former ways of what? Former ways of everything: former ways of behaving, former ways of thinking, former ways of seeing, former ways of hearing. **We need a whole new approach.** And this is what God is trying to get us into, but we have to work along with it. So that's what **Advent is for. It's working along with the God, who is trying to prepare us for something totally new.** And even if we have in the past been shocked or somehow enlightened into certain insights, that's all wonderful, but we have to keep going. **We must never just rest and think we have arrived.** There is no point where we have arrived until we are fully in God and God is fully in us.