

The Here and the Now God First Week in Ordinary Time Wednesday, January
10, 2018 8:15 AM 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; **Mk 1:29-39** (This need for a new way of
approaching life is the essence of Jesus' preaching.)

“So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.”

We see here that **Jesus' primary purpose is preaching.** He also found himself healing people by his mere presence, but he did not come for that purpose. It's like this: if you have a dark room and you turn on the light, the darkness leaves. **Jesus is light and, therefore, wherever he went he enlightened and that means he brought healing.** But it's obvious that the people were, shall we say, **more interested in the effects of his presence than they were listening to what he had to say.**

Earlier on here it says, “The whole town was at the door.” Well it is true there's something wrong with everyone. **Everyone needs some kind of healing,** and yet the healing was secondary to his mission, which was preaching. And what did he preach? **He preached that “the kingdom of God is at hand.” That means present, at arms-length. He preached that people need to start thinking in a new way, which is called in Greek metanoia, in Hebrew it's teshuvah.** Jews did have the idea of—and *teshuvah* literally means to turn, not of course physically, **to turn one's thinking around and therefore everything else, since everything is related, our thinking, our feelings, our actions.** But it's easiest to deal with thinking because it's the slowest part of us. It's much slower than our feelings, which are hard to get a handle on.

So **this need for a new way of approaching life is the essence of Jesus' preaching.** The kingdom of God is present. **“This is the time of fulfillment,”** he said. Fulfillment, this is the time of fulfillment. This is the time of God completing his work begun in the creation. So it's a matter of time and place; **now and here God is at work.** And we need to respond with a fresh approach in our minds. We cannot hold onto what we think life is all about, what we were taught, even in catechism class. It doesn't matter where it came from. **We have to be willing to let go of everything and learn anew being taught by Christ, about the here and the now God.** That was his mission.