



(Affiliated To The Worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion)

Memorial Church Anglican - Whitefield

Consecrated 1886

Main Road, Whitefield, Bangalore 560 066

SERMON FOR 4th. SUNDAY IN ADVENT 19.12.2010

The gospel portion read to us this morning portrays John the Baptist as a person who shows an interest in preaching and in water purification.

It was a practice for the Jews to use water in the form of baptism for the Gentiles who wanted to adopt the Jewish faith. But here John the Baptist is baptising Jews!! This act upset the Jewish religious leaders and they came to investigate John the Baptist and his ministry. They did so because they were the custodians and guardians of the faith. They asked him logical questions (which all religious heads normally do!!) ‘Who are You, Are you the promised messiah?’

This set of questions also had a deep political expression. The political climate of this time such, for the people were expecting the overthrow of the Roman colonial rule and the re-establishment of the Davidic kingdom. The words and acts of John the Baptist kind of led the people to think that he was the messiah and that their long expected wait for political freedom was at hand.

To those logical questions with that background, John the Baptist answers that he is not Elijah nor the messiah – his ministry is only to be the voice of one crying out in the desert to make straight the way of the Lord to fulfil Is. 40:1 – 3

Hence John the Baptist is just a voice preparing the way of the Messiah’s arrival. A voice cannot be seen, yet we see it has the power to make straight the way of the Lord.

St. John uses parallels in this word ‘voice’ – St. John reflects the creation week of Genesis where God spoke and all things were created. John the Baptist spoke and ushered in the beginning of a new era of the new creation once the messiah came.

Now we need follow examples – and are called to talk about Jesus to indicate change in fellow human lives so that they would begin to participate in the kingdom of God’s values and finally attain everlasting life with Jesus.
