

4th Sunday of Lent
(Yr C)

Reading 1

Citation: Joshua, Chap. 5, Verses 9a, 10-12
Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12

You are a storyteller. Stress the details (which sets up the Passover observances for the future). Take your time. Let your listeners connect the dots.

A reading from the Book of Joshua

The LORD said to Joshua, (short pause)
"Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." (firm) (short pause)

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal
on the Plains of Jericho, (parenthetical?)
they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. (very short pause)

On the day after the Passover,
they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain.

On that same day
after the Passover,
on which they ate of the produce of the land, (parenthetical expression)
the manna ceased.

No longer was there manna for the Israelites,
who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan. (two stresses)

The word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: 2 Corinthians, Chap. 5, Verses 17-21
2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Paul urges his listeners to understand what Jesus' death and resurrection actually means for all of mankind. Further, he insists that followers of Christ must demonstrate God's gift of reconciliation by how we live. Take your time; help your listeners both hear and internalize the significance of Paul's message!

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: (very short pause)
Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: (very short pause)
the old things have passed away; (parenthetical expression)
behold,
new things have come. (be emphatic!) (short pause)

And all this is from God,
who has reconciled us to himself through Christ
and given us the ministry of reconciliation,
namely,
God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ,
not counting their trespasses against them (voice goes up) (negative tone)
and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (short pause)

So (very short pause)
we are ambassadors for Christ,
as if God were appealing through us. (parenthetical expression ?)

We implore you (insist !
on behalf of Christ, ("
be reconciled to God. (" (short pause)

For our sake (insistent)
he made him to be sin "
who did not know sin, "
so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. "

The word of the Lord.

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Gospel

Citation: Luke, Chap. 15, Verses 1-3, 11-32
Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

A story with a clear-cut meaning for all of us. Picture yourself as telling this story with your listeners gathered around you. Let your eyes roam over the Assembly as you proclaim so that they realize you want them involved. Help your listeners identify with each of the sons in turn – we've all been there! Remain aloof but firm with your listeners when taking on the father's role. You close with a definite appeal for your listeners to see their fellows as God sees them – that is "being a Christian."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus,
but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying,

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." (strong disdain)

So to them Jesus addressed this parable: (very short pause)

"A man had two sons,
and the younger son said to his father,
'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' (very short pause)

So the father divided the property between them. "

After a few days,
the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country
where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. (almost parenthetical)

When he had freely spent everything, (growing alarm/concern)
a severe famine struck that country, "
and he found himself in dire need. "

So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens (growing sense of defeat)
who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. "

And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed,
but nobody gave him any. " (short pause)

Coming to his senses (almost relief!)
he thought, (seriously considering; remorse)

'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, "
but here am I, "

dying from hunger. (very short pause)

I shall get up and go to my father (determination)

and I shall say to him,

"Father, (very sorry)

I have sinned against heaven and against you. "

I no longer deserve to be called your son;
treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers." "

Proclamation Format

So he got up and went back to his father.

(short pause)

While he was still a long way off,
his father caught sight of him,
and was filled with compassion.
He ran to his son,
embraced him
and kissed him.

(excited; can this be?)

(loving tone)

(faster pace)

(still fast paced)

(loving tone) (short pause)

His son said to him,
'Father,
I have sinned against heaven and against you;
I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

(sincerely sorry)

"

"

But his father ordered his servants,
Quickly
bring the finest robe and put it on him;
put a ring on his finger
and sandals on his feet.
Take the fattened calf and slaughter it.
Then
let us celebrate with a feast,
because this son of mine was dead,
and has come to life again;
he was lost,
and has been found.'

(upbeat)

(excited)

(faster pace)

"

"

"

(very short pause)

(excited; happy)

(thankful)

"

Then the celebration began.

(smile!)

Now
the older son had been out in the field and,
on his way back,
as he neared the house,
he heard the sound of music and dancing.

(begin to get serious)

"

"

(very serious)

He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean.

(factual tone)

The servant said to him,
'Your brother has returned
and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf
because he has him back safe and sound.'

(excited)

(very excited)

(Wow!)

He became angry,
and when he refused to enter the house,
his father came out
and pleaded with him.

(serious)

(very serious)

(pleading)

Proclamation Format

He said to his father in reply,
'Look,
all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders;
yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends.

(factual)
(angry)
(more anger)
(very angry)

But when your son returns
who swallowed up your property with prostitutes,
for him you slaughter the fattened calf.'

(stress disdain)
(terrible!)
(lividly angry!)

He said to him,
'My son,
you are here with me always;
everything I have is yours.
But now
we must celebrate and rejoice,
because your brother was dead
and has come to life again;
he was lost and has been found.'

(quiet tone)
(NOT condescending)
(lovingly)
(reassuring)
("wait a minute")

(voice goes up)
("Thank God!")

The Gospel of the Lord.