



CONTEXT

**Do you know anything about the environmental problem?
It is a sign of our time. That is why the Pope wrote the encyclical
Laudato Sí.
You are interested in solving it, right?**

La crisis ecológica es el gran desafío al que nos enfrentamos la humanidad en los dos últimos siglos. Como a ninguna otra generación, la nuestra es puesta a prueba en su capacidad para responder garantizando la vida futura de todos los seres vivos de la Tierra. Y en este tiempo, en este y otros grandes desafíos, Dios no nos abandona a nuestra suerte. El Evangelio de este domingo nos lo confirma y nos describe las características de su actuación: en un tiempo concreto, en un lugar preciso y a través de personas concretas.

GOSPEL Lk 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas,* the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert.

3* He went throughout [the] whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"



REFLECTION

The Gospel begins by saying: "In the fifteenth year," it immediately describes a series of persons, and then introduces John, to whom the word of God is sent in the desert. The intention of the evangelist is to highlight the action of God that is revealed at a specific time (the year 15 of the Emperor Tiberius), in a specific place (the desert) and in specific people (John, son of Zacharias).

The Gospel thus challenges us to be aware of our time. Today, for example, our year 15 we could say, it is a time when it is urgent to safeguard creation and in this proper context, God also enters our history transforming it. But his intervention is neither magical nor above human mediation. God acts in the world if we do our part.

Thus, in a context of ecological crisis, the concrete place that today requires God's salvation is our common home. God acts here and now, but for this he needs us, he requires our conversion, that is, he invites us to change our path, to stop "sinning ecologically", and to live more committedly our original vocation of being custodians of creation (Rf. Laudato Si '217).

COMMITMENT

At this specific context: do I feel invited to take care of God's creation? In what place? What actions to carry out? When will I do them?

PRAYER

We thank you, Father, because your transforming Word is real in time, in place and through actual people. We want to collaborate with you in the transformation of our World, especially in the care of our common. Amen.

