

2nd Sunday in Lent, February 17 John 3:1-17

Point a Finger, or . . .

The moneylenders did it: they made bad loans, houses are being foreclosed, the economy of the US is being dragged down, the whole world is headed for recession (if not already there).

The President did it: turned the shock of 9/11 into fear, invaded Afghanistan, invaded Iraq, dragged the whole world into 'us v. them.'

The Democrats did it: assumed impossible values to take care of everyone, taxed people to pay for social welfare, dragged down the whole US economy.

The unions did it: asked for ridiculous benefits and inflexible work rules, ran up the cost of US manufacturing, drove business into overseas markets, undercut the whole US economy.

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. (John 3:17) *"Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright ? 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group."*biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=6

Do you? Do we look at economics, politics, values, family, home, community, church,... to point an accusing finger? I'm always reminded of that old saw that if you point a finger at someone

you have at least three pointing back at yourself. I'm part of any problem I point out.

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son.

Instead of pointing a finger, God acted, God loved, God gave. Can we?

Will we act to provide a way out for those trapped in the backwaters of our economic system? Will we act to provide a way forward for those despairing of our political system? Will we act to provide a way in for those left out of our social system?

Will we love? Will we give? "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

A Way to Pray – Kything Prayer (as in 'kith & kin')

- Kythe (Scottish) is "to visualize another as present"
- Picture yourself held in God's Love
- Picture 1 person you want to pray for in God's Love
- Hold your arms in an X over your chest as you
- "hold [this person] in your heart" (Philippians 1:7)
- After a few minutes, exhale, drop arms, let go
- and place your loved one in the arms of God