

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – by Father Dave

Most of us like success. Almost daily, through a wide means of media, our attention is often drawn to those who are the wealthiest, the most powerful, the most beautiful, the most fashionable, and the list could go on. Their activities garner the headlines, their photos appear in social media, and their lives can often dominate our conversations. At times, we may even desire to have what they appear to have – fame and fortune. And we use such ideas as the basis for defining success.

Jesus' followers fell into similar traps. Last week we heard Jesus predicting His passion and death, but ultimate resurrection. Since last week they have been to Caesarea Philippi where Jesus teaches them about the cost of being His follower. And now, we pick up - & what are the disciples doing? Instead of having empathy for Jesus, they are bickering among themselves about who will be the greatest.

How have our lives been shaped by the words of Jesus? Do we allow our lives to be shaped by His teaching and example? What worldly evils or wicked forces are working against our pursuit of discipleship? Who and what gets ignored while we pursue our own personal greatness?

Let's put aside the spiritual message for a moment – and think of ways we live our lives and “gotta be first.”

Are we one of those drivers who step on the gas when the lite turns from green to yellow, just so that we don't have to sit at the red lite?

Who doesn't get annoyed when someone cuts in front of us – and we start tail-gating with the attitude “I'll show them.”

In a conversation – do I always have to get the last word in, or do I always have to “1-up” the story that was just told?

In the store – we probably wouldn't mind if another clerk opened up another line and we could move to the front!

And the list could go on.

Jesus' teaching is more than about patience in driving or at the check-out line. It is a call to humble service. This is also what James is addressing in the selection we hear for today.

Today's readings offer some clear guidelines. Jesus does want a strong leadership for His Church. But He DOES NOT want a leadership that dominates and insists on rank. It is a leadership that will inevitably come in conflict with the prevailing attitude of the culture. In our parishes and homes, welcoming the “little children” will mean giving time for those who are sick, disabled, poor, mentally ill and vulnerable in all sorts of ways.

Disciples of Jesus are not to seek power and prestige, which the culture offers, but instead we are to seek peace and purity. Disciples of Jesus should not be motivated by jealousy and selfish ambition but serving the greater good. Disciples of Christ do not give their attention to the

wealthy and powerful, but to innocent children and the marginalized. Disciples of Christ do not worry about their homes, clothing and fine dining, but about providing shelter, clothing and food for those less fortunate.

All of this DOES NOT MEAN that we are to steer clear of the wealthy or those of status – or – that we are not to have certain comforts in our lives and in our homes. Jesus would like us to associate with everyone. He wants us to enjoy comforts. What He doesn't want is us associating with certain individuals solely for the purpose of being recognized (Ever been in a conversation with someone who is continually “Name-Dropping?”) He doesn't want us to be so focused on ourselves that we no longer see those around us who are in need & then step out of ourselves to lend a hand.

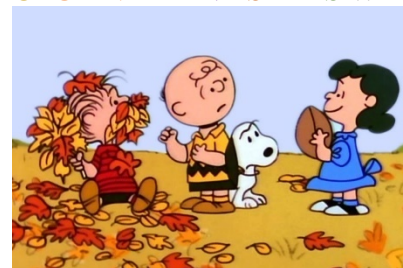
If we follow these guidelines, we may not be recognized among the rich and the famous. But we will be recognized by Jesus for caring “for the least of His brothers and sisters.” Jesus was focused on His Father's will and on sharing the Father's love. To do this He would endure His own passion and death and rise again in glory on that first Easter. For us – to be a follower of Jesus Christ will require a shift in our priorities every hour of every day, often with our own “dying and rising.”

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World
& for Peace.

Saints / Celebrations for this week

Sept 21 - The call of St Matthew, the tax collector, to be one of the twelve apostles of Jesus is described in the Gospel which bears his name. “Jesus saw a man named Matthew at his post where taxes were collected. He said to him, “Follow Me! And Matthew got up and followed Him.” When Jesus invited Matthew to follow Him and then ate at his house where Matthew's friends, outsiders like himself, were gathered, he heard the outraged comments of Capernaum's local leaders. “Why does He (Jesus) eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Jesus answered, “Those who are well have no need of a doctor; sick people do.” By calling Matthew, Jesus is inviting outcasts, and those deemed (by us humans) as unlikely, to enjoy the healing friendship of God. In a lesson of love, Jesus showed that God wants all, no matter who they are, to share life.

AUTUMN ARRIVES THIS WEEK



BULLETIN REFLECTION by Father Rody
SEPT 19 2021, 25TH SUN YR-B...MK 9, 30-37

31 He was teaching his disciples and telling them, ***“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise.”***

32 But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

Human resources department in the corporate world would always ask the applicants, ***‘What is in your name?’*** Well, the applicant should come up with an impressive résumé to get the job. The term is ‘impressive.’

If the corporate world would ask the same question to our Lord Jesus Christ, would verse 31 of the gospel reading be impressive enough? Or corporate world would be dismayed with the said verse?

Impressive? Well, the term depends on what perspective you are coming from. Indeed, verse 31 is impressive under the perspective of ‘God who became man is willing to endure all these things just so mankind be saved.’

Now we address, ‘What is in the name?’ Catechism of the Catholic Church will always say, ‘when you choose a name for your baby use the name of the saints.’ **(CCC #2156)** With that teaching, we raise the question, ‘What again is in the name?’

A name is not something to impress others whenever they hear it. Rather, a name is an exemplification of good traits. The name of our Lord Jesus...

MT. 1, 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and ***they shall name him Emmanuel,***” **which means** ***“God is with us.”***

Jesus has been with us ever since...He never left our side...through thick and thin He has been with us. Is that not impressive enough? The modern time names would be ***(some and not all)***, ‘A name is with you on the happy moments of life, but during your rough times that name is at a distance.’ Will you call that impressive?

That is why He needs to teach us ***(the opening of verse 31)*** that His name is multifaceted, and He would always remain true to His name though the situation may be the trying moments for Him.

It is our prayer then that the ***‘impressive name’-who we are*** would not only be categorized under happy times more so even with the painful side of our life, we can still happily exemplify that name... ***“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death he will rise.”***

