

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday Sept 11th for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: Loving and caring Father, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Teach us your ways and give us the strength to embrace the cross when it becomes our path. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Mark 8:27-35

Peter’s Confession About Jesus.*

27 Now Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi.^h Along the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

28 They said in reply, “John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets.”

29 And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said to him in reply, “You are the Messiah.”

30 Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

The First Prediction of the Passion.

31ⁱ He began to teach them that the Son of Man* must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days.

32 He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.”

The Conditions of Discipleship.

34 He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said* to them, “Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.ⁱ

35 For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel* will save it.^k

Notes

* [8:27–30] This episode is the turning point in Mark’s account of Jesus in his public ministry. Popular opinions concur in regarding him as a prophet. The disciples by contrast believe him to be the Messiah. Jesus acknowledges this identification but prohibits them from making his messianic office known to avoid confusing it with ambiguous contemporary ideas on the nature of that office. See further the notes on Mt 16:13–20.

* [8:31] Son of Man: an enigmatic title. It is used in Dn 7:13–14 as a symbol of “the saints of the Most High,” the faithful Israelites who receive the everlasting kingdom from the Ancient One (God). They are represented by a human figure that contrasts with the various beasts who represent the previous kingdoms of the earth. In the Jewish apocryphal books of 1 Enoch and Ezra the “Son of Man” is not, as in Daniel, a group, but a unique figure of extraordinary spiritual endowments, who will be revealed as the one through whom the everlasting kingdom decreed by God will be established.

It is possible though doubtful that this individualization of the Son of Man figure had been made in Jesus' time, and therefore his use of the title in that sense is questionable. Of itself, this expression means simply a human being, or, indefinitely, someone, and there are evidences of this use in pre-Christian times. Its use in the New Testament is probably due to Jesus' speaking of himself in that way, "a human being," and the later church's taking this in the sense of the Jewish apocrypha and applying it to him with that meaning. Rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes: the supreme council called the Sanhedrin was made up of seventy-one members of these three groups and presided over by the high priest. It exercised authority over the Jews in religious matters. See note on Mt 8:20.

* [8:34–35] This utterance of Jesus challenges all believers to authentic discipleship and total commitment to himself through self-renunciation and acceptance of the cross of suffering, even to the sacrifice of life itself. Whoever wishes to save his life will lose it...will save it: an expression of the ambivalence of life and its contrasting destiny. Life seen as mere self-centered earthly existence and lived in denial of Christ ends in destruction, but when lived in loyalty to Christ, despite earthly death, it arrives at fullness of life.

* [8:35] For my sake and that of the gospel: Mark here, as at Mk 10:29 equates Jesus with the gospel.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Name a cross that you carry and share how you are transforming it into good for others. What helps you to deal with the painful experiences of life?
2. How would you answer the question Jesus asked Peter: "Who do you say that I am?"
3. What is one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday's Gospel about how a disciple should speak or act? And what do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?

Commentary

After having been consistently rejected and misunderstood despite all he has said and done, Jesus starts to proclaim the necessity of the suffering of the Son of Man. Today's passage has two parts. The first deals with Peter's profession of faith. The second involves Jesus' teaching on the true nature of his messiah-ship—how it will involve suffering and how the cross will also be the lot of those who will follow him. In the first part, Jesus seeks to find out how his actions and words are being understood by the people. Peter tells him that many of the people think that he is a prophet raised from the dead. Then Jesus asks, "And who do you, my inner circle, say I am?" Peter, serving as spokesperson for his brothers, answers: "You are the Christ." This means that Jesus is the Messiah, the Anointed One of God. Even though Peter answers correctly, his reaction to Jesus' reference to a suffering Messiah clearly shows how much he needs to grow in his understanding of Jesus' messiahship. Peter is repulsed at the very idea of a wounded and suffering Messiah, as well as a discipleship that will involve carrying one's cross. It will take a lot of time and the action of the Holy Spirit for Peter and his friends to embrace the idea of a wounded and suffering Messiah and the belief that disciples will also suffer for being followers of Jesus. This teaching on the importance of the cross is the second lesson in a series of teachings on the characteristics of true discipleship.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, Sept 11 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Sept 11, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607