



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

28 February 2021

Second Sunday in Lent - Segundo Domingo de Cuaresma

Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

- Welcome.
 - Let's remember those we love in prayers for this week...
 - Fr. Bob Swick is in the hospital with some complications with his heart and blood. It will be several days for test to be completed. We pray for him.
 - Maria and Roberto's granddaughter Jessie, has contracted Covid. We pray for her.
 - Janice had a surgical procedure and is doing fine. We pray for her.
 - Chuck had a surgical procedure Tuesday. We pray for him.
 - Caroline is hobbled with a new knee and we pray for her.
 - Happy Birthday to Nancy last Monday.
 - Happy Birthday to Phillip this coming Saturday.
 - There are some minor differences in the Mass for the next several weeks.
 - we omit the Gloria during Lent...
 - there is no Alleluia verse, instead sing "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ..."
 - Video Masses will be on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.
 - Let us watch the news carefully and pray for the development of a vaccine so that all churches may resume the gathering that means so much.
 - I will stay in touch with each of you as we plan our church schedule for the months ahead.
- Please also visit the website at <https://spcath.org>

Gospel Mark 8:31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?"

Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."



Homily

Jesus and his apostles had recently been in Tyre and Sidon which today is the nation of Lebanon. The Gospel of today takes place in Caesarea Philippi, today known as the disputed territory of the Golan Heights; occupied by Israel and claimed also by Lebanon and Syria.

Caesarea Philippi should not be confused with the important port city of Caesarea on the coast of Israel.

Just prior to the verses of today's Gospel, which are worthy of mention, Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do the people say that I am?" The replies were all the things Jesus didn't want to hear. "They think you are John the Baptist... or Elijah... or Jeremiah... using another name."

Jesus might have said, "Holy cow. I need to work on this. I want them to learn that God sent me to teach all of you the Good News." People seemed to be putting Jesus into profiles they heard about or experienced during their lives. They matched him up with prophets they had heard about.

The people thought that Jesus was just another prophet. That was not so bad, although Jesus had so much more of a message. Some thought he was also a political agitator. Well, he was... Jesus was an agitator.

Remember that the first level of government for them was their religion-based government. Above that were the Roman conquerors who were content to let the Jews have their structure and worship freely as long as taxes were paid and work was done.

Jesus was an agitator and he challenged the rabbis that had subverted the Jewish faith and the Laws of Moses to raise their own stature.

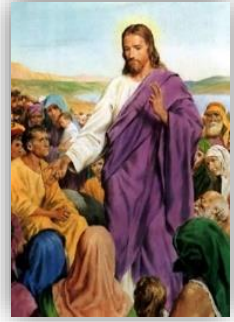
He began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Peter is upset and talks privately with Jesus. Peter takes his status seriously. This is about the time that Jesus had told Peter that he was the rock upon which the Church would be built.



The Gospel says Peter “rebuked” Jesus. That means to scold or reprimand. Imagine that! Peter said, “No such thing shall ever happen to you.” Peter is exercising his new authority but not in the manner Jesus wants. Jesus doesn’t want a ‘Dirty Harry’ saying, “That’s not gonna happen.”

Next, Jesus says. “Get behind me, Satan!” Was he calling Peter the devil who stood in his way? Or perhaps he was speaking figuratively to a third person? Perhaps he was commenting that Satan was causing Peter to say things that were slowing the progress of the message Jesus was giving to his disciples that day. Like so many things in the New Testament, there is room for speculation.



Either way, Jesus seized the moment and used Peter as a teaching tool.

“Take up the Cross.” That is our lesson today. We are to go beyond the soft-sell of spreading the Good News. We are asked to go further and demonstrate our faith in God. We are urged to believe the word, to spread the word, to sometimes feel the pain of commitment. To be unselfish to the point of extreme.

I doubt that any of us will be placed in a position of bodily harm for the sake of being good Christians. Pain and suffering you experience will most likely be confined to your ego. If others think of you as overly religious or taunt you for your belief and your commitment to the church, your ego may cry for a while. The ego is resilient and will always refresh itself. But it can take you to the edge of excessive pride and overconfidence. Too much ego is not a good thing, but egos like to be dominant.

Take up the cross. God speaks to us in many ways. For this lesson, I think God speaks and inspires people to be very public in their displays of faith. Sometimes you see them at busy intersections with signs to honk if you love Jesus. Others carry large crosses and imitate Christ. They are certainly taking up the cross and making a statement. Don’t judge them. They are showing their faith and acting on a message they received from God. Pray for them. More than his ego could be injured. What a great example people of today can be for Christ's teaching.

You see... God speaks to us in many ways without actually talking to us.

Take up the cross. Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

The lesson, my friends, is to find the cross you will take up. Find the cross that fits you and your abilities and time. Take up the cross and do more than what you have been doing. You are the judge for what doing more should be.



Evangelio Marcos 8:31-38

Jesús comenzó a enseñarles que el Hijo del hombre tendría que sufrir mucho, y que sería rechazado por los ancianos, por los jefes de los sacerdotes y por los maestros de la ley. Les dijo que lo iban a matar, pero que resucitaría a los tres días. Esto se lo advirtió claramente. Entonces Pedro lo llevó aparte y comenzó a reprenderlo. Pero Jesús se volvió, miró a los discípulos y reprendió a Pedro, diciéndole: —¡Apártate de mí, Satanás! Tú no ves las cosas como las ve Dios, sino como las ven los hombres.



Luego Jesús llamó a sus discípulos y a la gente, y dijo: —Si alguno quiere ser discípulo mío, olvídense de sí mismo, cargue con su cruz y sígame. Porque el que quiera salvar su vida, la perderá; pero el que pierda la vida por causa mía y por aceptar el evangelio, la salvará. ¿De qué le sirve al hombre ganar el mundo entero, si pierde la vida?

O también, ¿cuánto podrá pagar el hombre por su vida? Pues si alguno se avergüenza de mí y de mi mensaje delante de esta gente infiel y pecadora, también el Hijo del hombre se avergonzará de él cuando venga con la gloria de su Padre y con los santos ángeles.



Homilía

Jesús y sus apóstoles habían estado recientemente en Tiro y Sidón, que hoy es la nación del Líbano. El Evangelio de hoy tiene lugar en Cesarea de Filipo, hoy conocido como el territorio en disputa de los Altos del Golán; ocupada por Israel y reclamada también por Líbano y Siria.

Cesarea de Filipo no debe confundirse con la importante ciudad portuaria de Cesarea en la costa de Israel.

Justo antes de los versículos del Evangelio de hoy, que son dignos de mención, Jesús preguntó a sus discípulos: "¿Quién dice la gente que soy?" Las respuestas fueron todas las cosas que Jesús no quería escuchar. "Crean que eres Juan el Bautista ... o Elías ... o Jeremías ... usando otro nombre".

Jesús podría haber dicho: "Santa vaca. Necesito trabajar en esto. Quiero que aprendan que Dios me envió a enseñarles las Buenas Nuevas ". La gente parecía estar poniendo a Jesús en perfiles que escucharon o experimentaron durante sus vidas. Lo emparejaron con profetas de los que habían oído hablar.

La gente pensó que Jesús era solo otro profeta. Eso no fue tan malo, aunque Jesús tenía mucho más mensaje. Algunos pensaron que también era un agitador político. Bueno, él era ... Jesús era un agitador.

Recuerde que el primer nivel de gobierno para ellos era su gobierno basado en la religión. Por encima de eso estaban los conquistadores romanos que se contentaban con dejar que los judíos tuvieran su estructura y culto libremente siempre que se pagaran los impuestos y se hiciera el trabajo.

Jesús era un agitador y desafió a los rabinos que habían subvertido la fe judía y las leyes de Moisés a elevar su propia estatura.

Comenzó a enseñar a sus discípulos que el Hijo del Hombre debía sufrir grandes sufrimientos, ser rechazado por los ancianos, los principales sacerdotes y los escribas, ser muerto y resucitar después de tres días.

Pedro está molesto y habla en privado con Jesús. Peter se toma en serio su estatus. Se trata de la época en que Jesús le había dicho a Pedro que él era la roca sobre la que se construiría la Iglesia.

El Evangelio dice que Pedro "reprendió" a Jesús. Eso significa regañar o reprender. ¡Imagina eso! Peter dijo: "Nunca te sucederá tal cosa". Pedro está ejerciendo su nueva autoridad, pero no de la manera que Jesús quiere. Jesús no quiere que un 'Harry el Sucio' diga: "Eso no va a pasar".



A continuación, dice Jesús. "¡Apártate de mí Satanás!" ¿Estaba llamando a Pedro el diablo que se interponía en su camino? ¿O tal vez estaba hablando en sentido figurado con una tercera persona? Quizás estaba comentando que Satanás estaba haciendo que Pedro dijera cosas que estaban frenando el progreso del mensaje que Jesús estaba dando a sus discípulos ese día. Como tantas cosas en el Nuevo Testamento, hay lugar para la especulación.

De cualquier manera, Jesús aprovechó el momento y usó a Pedro como una herramienta de enseñanza.

"Toma la cruz". Esa es nuestra lección de hoy. Debemos ir más allá de la venta suave de difundir las Buenas Nuevas. Se nos pide que vayamos más allá y demostremos nuestra fe en Dios. Se nos insta a creer la palabra, a correr la voz, a sentir a veces el dolor del compromiso. Ser desinteresado hasta el extremo.

Dudo que alguno de nosotros sea colocado en una posición de daño corporal por el simple hecho de ser buenos cristianos. El dolor y el sufrimiento que experimente probablemente se limitarán a su ego. Si otros piensan que eres demasiado religioso o se burlan de ti por tus creencias y tu compromiso con la iglesia, tu ego puede llorar por un tiempo. El ego es resistente y siempre se refrescará, pero puede llevarte al borde del orgullo excesivo y el exceso de confianza. Demasiado ego no es algo bueno, pero al ego le gusta ser dominante.

Toma la cruz. Dios nos habla de muchas formas. Para esta lección, creo que Dios habla e inspira a las personas a ser muy públicas en sus demostraciones de fe. A veces los ves en intersecciones concurridas con letreros para tocar la bocina si amas a Jesús. Otros cargan grandes cruces e imitan a Cristo. Ciertamente, están tomando la cruz y haciendo una declaración. No los juzgues. Están mostrando su fe y actuando de acuerdo con un mensaje que recibieron de Dios. Reza por ellos. Más de lo que su ego podría resultar herido. Qué gran ejemplo puede ser la gente de hoy para la enseñanza de Cristo.

Verá ... Dios nos habla de muchas maneras sin realmente hablarnos.

Toma la cruz. Jesús dijo: "Si alguno quiere ser mis seguidores, niéguese a sí mismo, tome su cruz y sígame".

La lección, amigos míos, es encontrar la cruz que tomarán. Encuentre la cruz que se adapte a usted, sus habilidades y su tiempo. Toma la cruz y haz más de lo que has estado haciendo. Usted es el juez de lo que debería ser hacer más.

