

Homily:24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Sept 16 2018.

INTRODUCTION (background)

We have a powerful setting,--- for a pivotal teaching,--- in today's Gospel reading. By way of background,--- the town of Caesarea Philippi,---mentioned in this morning's GOSPEL--- was located about twenty miles north of Galilee,--- in a region that was largely Gentile.--- The town had been rebuilt,--- in honor of Caesar, the Roman Emperor.--- The Romans were the Pagan, occupying forces at the time, and the town,--- contained many monuments to him,--- Caesar Augustus. It was here, Jesus asked his disciples,--- what people are saying about Him,--- and most importantly,--- who do the Apostles,--- consider Jesus to be. Peter answered:"You are the Christ".--- (Meaning The Anointed One).---What relief for the rest! --- PETER gave the right answer.-- But Peter,--- had the wrong expectations.-- - Notice,--- Jesus immediately taught Peter, including the Apostles there,--- with Him,--- about his forthcoming SUFFERING,---DEATH--

- and RESURRECTION... Now when PETER heard about SUFFERING--- and DEATH,--- it's obvious to us here,--- we looking back today,-- Peter,-- did not hear:-- "after three days I will rise again." So Peter Began "to REMONSTRATE" with Jesus, (in the words of this morning's GOSPEL.)

Then, followed,--- one of the greatest rebukes,--- by Christ,-- to Peter, in this morning's Gospel,-- heard around the World today:--- "Get behind me Satan, the way you think,--- is not God's way,--- but Man's Ways".

This,--- precise moment in Peter's conversation with Jesus,--- strikes a chord,--- within all our hearts, gathered here today, because, no one of us here,--- like to hear the words,---about,--- my suffering and my death,--- let alone face such frightening realities in my life.--- The Resurrection appearance calls,--- each one of us here this morning,--- to renounce oneself,--- has changed Peter's way of thinking,--- and Pentecost gave him the courage-- and conviction-- to proclaim, "God's Way," of

**thinking the Good News of Salvation, in his,--
- and in his converts lives.**

**Jesus' focus then, --- moves from the
small group of Apostles, --- to the bigger
crowds, --- and He teaches them, --- what
being a follower of Christ,--- means. To us, ---
this morning,--- it does not sound easy,--- or
pleasant in our lives,--- to take up the CROSS,
and follow HIM, in my life.**

**The ultimate goal in life,--- for all of us
here,---this morning;--- is to save my life,---
and the only way of doing that,--- is to lose
it,--- for the sake of the Gospel.--- My life,---
is better,--- than any material goods,--- and
cannot be exchanged for anything.--- This
call, ---by Christ, --- to Discipleship,---with
Him,--- inside of me ,--- reminds me ,of a
verse shared with me by a good old wise
man,--- now gone to his eternal reward,---
he said, to me,---" OH,---giving in giving,---
'till giving again,--- 'till the Angel sees you
through;---but never stop giving,---'till the
Master,--- stops giving to you.--- For,--- what
you give away,---you keep,---you lose,---and
when you are good to others,---you are best**

to yourself. "Is this God's way of thinking,--- inside my life,--- or "Man's Way?"

Be careful what you think.--- We become what we pray,---THINK,--- READ,---EAT,--- and DO!--- Be alert,--- when somebody asks YOU; ---"WHAT DO YOU THINK."--- PAUSE --- BEFORE YOU THINK,--- IT MAY NOT BE GOD'S WAY,--- "BUT MAN'S!"

CONCLUSION

**Is MY FAITH, --- IN GOD, --- IN MY LIFE,--
- DEAD,--- OR ALIVE,---ACTIVE---OR ---
PASSIVE,---. KEEP IN MIND,---JESUS HAS
RISEN,---AND THAT SUFFERING ,---DEATH,---
DO NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD.AMEN.**