

Twenty-fifth Week in Ordinary Time – 09-19-2021

In the gospel today Jesus told his disciples that, “The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise. But they did not understand the saying and they were afraid to question him.”

And then, shortly thereafter, on the way back to Capernaum Jesus’ disciples were more concerned with who was the greatest among them.

Much like we heard last week in the gospel they were still thinking as men do and not as God does.

So Jesus asked them what they were arguing about **on the way**? But they remained silent. Were they embarrassed? Perhaps some of us are thinking, “They sure should have been.”

We could choose to be critical of the disciples but as we heard in the gospel they were still on the way. They didn’t yet understand and they were still very much afraid. So they naturally went back to what they knew – the ways of the world.

Like the early disciples we are all on the way and all of us still have a ways to go on our journey toward understanding what it truly means to follow Christ crucified – to think as God does and not as men do.

Perhaps it's best summed up in the statement, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." This is totally contrary to the ways of the world.

Do we have the humility to be challenged and to accept this saying of Jesus? After all humility is the foundation upon which the entire spiritual life rests.

At our baptisms we were received into the Church, made children of God and were equipped to follow Jesus on the way.

Following Jesus is a lifelong process and it will usually involve many crosses which necessarily require a death to our worldly self.

How often are we tempted to go back to what we know – the ways of the world?

However, the fact that we are here today is proof that we haven't given up – that we are still on the way.

Certainly, we are all in different places in the journey but the way of the cross is the only way to get to our heavenly destination.

The Son of Man, Jesus, was handed over to men and they killed him, but three days after his death he rose again. The disciples didn't understand this saying at first and they were afraid to question him.

If we are struggling to understand the way of the cross let's not be afraid to ask Jesus He's always there to help his children along the way.