

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Then Jesus told his disciples, "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 will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. (Mt 16,21-27)



In today's gospel we heard about the confusion of Peter. Last Sunday we heard, how he was talking, when he was filled with the Holy Spirit. He told very right about Jesus: „You are the Son of a living God!“ And Jesus said: „It was not revealed to you by blood and flesh but by my Father in heaven.“ And in that journey after maybe a few hours Jesus named him Satan. You see – one hour ago Jesus told Peter that he was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit but now He calls him Satan and says: „**Get behind me!**“ Why? Jesus spoke about four things: Son of man is going to Jerusalem, there He will be suffering, He will be killed and on the third day He will be risen. When Peter heard about these four things, he said: „Oh, let it not happen to you!“ „Get behind me, Satan!“

Here the main point is this: we may be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, out of the power of the Holy Spirit we can speak wise things, glorious things but it doesn't mean that afterwards we'll be speaking wise things.

For a moment Peter is looking at the reality. There he speaks from his own heart, not from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. When you look at Jesus, things are different. If you look at yourselves, things are different. **It is always important for us to fix our eyes on Jesus. Let us be humble, prayerfull, always we are in need of repentance, otherwise we'll be taken away by devil.** No matter how much you are filled with the Holy Spirit, one minute of carelessness can ruin us. Then we speak everything what we want and we put it in the mouth of God. It happens in the renewed life. Some people are enlightened by the Holy Spirit through the word of God, they begin their ministry with Jesus and gradually they forget Jesus and they present themselves. They say what they want and they put it in the mouth of God. Actually what they say does not come from God, it comes from their egos, selfish motives. Jesus tells to those people: „Satan, get behind me!“

So who is Peter here? He is a disciple. What's the duty of a disciple? To recognize who Jesus is, listen to Him and follow Him. Peter is a disciple. The disciple is to follow the Master, the Saviour. But now in today's evangelium Peter the dicsciple wants to go ahead of Jesus. Now disciple leads the Master: „Your ways are not good. You should not die.“ Things went wrong! Instead of following Jesus he went ahead and he wanted to guide Jesus. Jesus said: „Get behind me, Satan!“ What does it mean? **„Peter, you are the disciple, go behind the level of discipleship. Don't go ahead of me! Go behind me! You haven't seen me fully, I will be fully revealed only on the Cross. You only heard about it, you haven't seen it. Wait. Still you follow me.“** What a beautiful teaching it is!

That is what we heard in the first reading. Jeremiah when he opens the mouth he speaks only about curse. But he is telling: „The fire is within me, the love of God is burning within me in my bones. Oh God, you have seduced me, I am seduced!“ You see, he does not want to speak about God but when he opens the mouth, he speaks only about God. When he talks about God, people misunderstand him. If he doesn't speak about God, people are ok with him. But God in him is not like that. God becomes a fire in him: „Speak, speak about me,“ says God. So his life becomes a sacrifice.

St. Paul said the same thing: „Our bodies are not to be kept for ourselves.“ Today in the gym people keep the bodies for themselves but St. Paul said: **„Your bodies are to be offered as a living sacrifice!“** Going behind the state of discipleship. And he tells us: „Let us not be formed by the world but by following Christ let us have the renewal of the mind.“ This is what happens in our retreat. By following the word of God we are having the renewal of the mind. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen said: **„Your love for a thing or a person is determined by how much sacrifice you make for it.“** Like husband and wife. You love your wife – how do you proof that you love your wife? Through the sufferings that you are able to undergo! Yes. These suffererings are not at all painful for you, they are part of love. That is the nature of the love of Jesus. Jesus' hand is wounded but no pain. You touch but no pain. Why there is no pain for that wound? Because you accepted it in love. **What is received in love, accepted in love, there is no pain.**

Let us really follow Jesus. Let us not forget Jesus so that evil will not come out through our mouth. Throughout our life let us live as disciples. Let us be guided by Jesus. **Out of pride don't go ahead of Him and try to guide God. It is the sin of the church today.** We go ahead of God, we command God what is to be done. No. Let us go behind. We are the disciples. Who is a disciple? One who is learning. A disciple is the one who is learning. Please, let us learn. Every year we are learning. Every retreat is an opportunity for you to learn, to follow Christ.

Pray for us priests. Many of us are like Peter. We began our priesthood as a disciple, now we put Jesus behind and we are going. It is a sin. Let this word of God transform us. Let Jesus love us so much! **Let us be the best disciples.** At the end you'll hear the voice from the mouth of God: „Well done, my son, my daughter, enter into my joy, so that my joy will be complete!“ Yes, let's pray for it.