

HOMILY FOR THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR C

1. Gospels can be challenging reading when pay close attention
 - a. Jesus leadership style very paradoxical
 - i. He is an attractive, charismatic personality
 - ii. People are drawn to Him, His stories, his powerful works
 - iii. Might be led to think, here is a man who could have led a powerful revolution
 - iv. His disciple are beginning g to think that way
 - v. When Jesus decides to meet His destiny in Jerusalem, disciples appear to be thinking at last
 - vi. Now we will change the world
2. Jesus has an immediate surprise for them
 - a. As He begins this journey, he decides to travel through a Samaritan town
 - b. Send emissaries to set up a reception, but the town balks because He is on way to Jerusalem
 - c. James and John, nicknamed Sons of Thunder for their impulsiveness, think it is time for Jesus to show His stuff
 - i. Can we call down fire from heaven and destroy them
 - ii. Fun that would be, get even for ignoring us, really draw the people
 - d. Jesus instead rebukes them, moves on to another village
3. Even more revealing is how Jesus warns those who want to follow Him
 - a. Someone with enthusiasm says I will follow you wherever you go
 - b. Jesus is not celebrating that our group has gotten larger
 - c. Rather warns them: even wild animals have their homes but Son of Man has no place to even lay His head
 - i. Jesus is warning this person, this is not going to be glorious journey
 - ii. It is going to be challenging, think if you really want this lifestyle
4. On the journey He meets others who want to follow Him but not yet
 - a. Their excuses on the face of it sound reasonable
 - i. I need to bury my father, I need to say goodbye to my family
 - b. Jesus answer is challenge; if you want to be my follower that comes first
 - i. There is no looking back
5. This is the challenge of faith for all of us
 - a. We want what Jesus offers: eternal joy, happiness with God, peace and fulfillment with God's people
 - b. The road to that glory is not easy
 - c. We are going to have to make sacrifices; we will be forced to make hard choices
6. The world around us tell us we can have it all
 - a. Commercials are made to tell us that happiness can be bought
 - b. Find just the right car, the right I-Pad, perfect restaurant, never have to worry again
 - c. Even though we know intellectually this is not true
 - d. Maybe there is a chance, I can have it all, sort of like thinking we really can win the lottery
7. Jesus is warning us that happiness and joy are not commodities, we can earn
 - a. We can only get them by giving them away
 - b. If Jesus really comes first in our life, we will lose some things
 - c. Time, to truly have a relationship with Jesus we will need to pray
 - i. Other important things will have to be set aside
 - d. Lose money—if we believe and love Jesus as the first in our life
 - i. Share possessions and wealth with Him
 - ii. Struggle to discern what He is asking but He must come first
 - e. Even give up choice of family - if we are follower of Jesus we have new family – family is those who struggle to be faithful to Jesus
8. Realistically we constantly fail to follow Jesus
 - a. We find excuses to look elsewhere for joy
 - b. Seem reasonable at the time
9. Trouble with Jesus is that no excuse works for Him
 - a. He never gives up on us; forgives us and gives us another chance

- b. Keeps calling us to follow Him, to be part of His family
- c. Warns us it may not be easy
- d. He sees greatness in each one of us and wants us to be his people but it will have to be on His terms not ours