



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A - XXII - Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20, 7-9; Psalm 62, 2. 3-4. 5-6. 8-9; Romans 12, 1-2; Matthew 16, 21-27

Take Your Cross and Follow Me

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

Reflection

Jesus announces His upcoming suffering and death. **How does Peter react?** He exclaims, "No such thing shall ever happen to you!" **Why did Peter say this?** Because watching Jesus suffer and die was very sad for him. Also, Jesus is God and does not deserve such a painful death. **Why does Jesus get upset?** Peter is thinking as men think which is how to avoid suffering. But God thinks instead of how to love and save us. Peter did not understand that Jesus' mission was to sacrifice Himself so that God would forgive our sins, an act of GREAT LOVE for us. **What did Jesus mean by we must deny ourselves to follow Him?** We must give up our comforts and desires and go out to help those in need. For example I can give up spending all day on my phone or playing video games and go to help with the housework, or spend time with my grandmother, or read a story to my little brother. **And what does it mean to take up the Cross (or lose our life) and follow Jesus?** It means placing God first by always loving and obeying Him and not placing our toys, games, or friends first; it means to give up our comforts and pleasures to help others; it means accepting trials with patience and faith; it means seeking to do God's will. Jesus always did God's will and lived for others. We can do works of mercy and help others with their corporal (body) and spiritual (spirit) needs. **What happens to people who live only for themselves, interested in only material things?** Jesus said that it is not worth winning the world (material things) if you lose yourself (your soul). Only following Jesus' way of love gives us joy in this world and the next.



Activity

On the next page, write inside of the cross, the words that best explain the changes in attitude that Jesus wants from us. Do the Works of Mercy activity on the last page.

Prayer

Jesus, fill my heart with your love so that I can think, act, and feel just like you did; especially I ask for peace of mind so that I can stop worrying about my own problems, and instead start thinking about others. Amen.

Song: A Gift to You, Angel 911, https://youtu.be/I_g76phMf5E?si=FpgNDvBQxnue0ekk

Put God's Work First, CJ and friends, <https://youtu.be/IZfNBzZ5L-M?si=cwNgZiF5Ickn4P0Z> (8+ yrs.)

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1rPhxbzQvqQtCiNxcEGq6qoolEMnymnI/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115268475267556305384&rtfpof=true&sd=true



Write inside of the cross the words that best explain

What are the changes that Jesus wants from us?

SERVICE
ARROGANCE
VANITY
GIVE UP MY COMFORT
FORGIVENESS
SADNESS
SACRIFICE
ANGER

JOY
WEAKNESS
LOVE
IMPATIENCE
PATIENCE
SELFISHNESS



Instructions: Cut out the headings, Corporal Works of Mercy and Spiritual Works of Mercy, and place the first on a construction paper with the outline of a body; and place the second on another construction paper with the outline of a heart. Cut out each work of mercy and give them out to the children. Have them take turns placing a work of mercy on either the Corporal Works or Spiritual Works sheet.

Corporal Works of Mercy



Spiritual Works of Mercy

