

**21<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.**

**JOSHUA'S MOMENT --- DECISION-MAKING.**

When God created us, He could have made us like robots thus having total control over us in all things. God did not do that, rather He gave us freedom, the power to make up our minds and then choose. After **life**, the greatest gift we have is **freedom**. We can choose **to obey or disobey, to do good or bad**. One fact is very clear. With freedom comes **responsibility and accountability** in our choice of what we do. There are **benefits** obviously for choosing **rightly**. Whereas there are **consequences for choosing wrongly**.

Our readings today talk of this great decision-making in our lives. In our first reading the Israelites are called to make up their minds as to whether they are going to follow the foreigner gods of the Amorites, gods of their fathers' culture, or follow **the one true God** (Yahweh). Joshua, their leader, didn't impose it on them. They were free to make their own decision, this was a very powerful call. ***"If serving Yahweh seems a bad thing to you, today YOU MUST make up your mind whom you do want to serve. As regards my family and I we shall serve Yahweh"***. The point is driven home, the decision and the choice had to be made, this is what we could call a **Joshua moment**. We all have this Joshua moment in our lives in one way or another. It might come in different ways and circumstances in our lives:

- when a loved one is diagnosed with a terminal illness.
- when we lose a loved one.
- when we hear gossip of others, and we are tempted to join in.
- when our marriage or a vocation are on the rocks and are faced with the need to sacrifice to save it.

This is the call of the second reading: sacrificing pride, stubbornness, and even principals we hold for the sake of peace. ***“Husbands YOU MUST LOVE YOUR wives as you love your body.”***

Finally, the Gospel offers a Joshua moment to everyone today. This is the final discourse of John’s Gospel on the **bread and wine, the body and blood**, now **MY FLESH**, which made the people leave and reject Jesus’ teachings. The **Eucharistic crisis seen here** calls for a decision. The popular teacher, Jesus, shocks everyone and he is left almost on His own. He is calling for **a decision and a choice, like Joshua. Now it is Jesus’ moment, “What about you, do you want to go away too?”** These words are directed to us today. We must make up our minds. A crisis about the Eucharist as Body and Blood of Christ will occur when we **block Jesus from transforming us. We should not block the power of His presence and grace** with all kinds of stops and detours. How we live, spend, relate, accept, and treat our neighbor manifests the **Jesus moment**.

Many a time we end up making Jesus a **prisoner** of the tabernacle, **receiving him there, honoring Him there, and leaving him there like a precious jewel in a safe which is never worn at all.** We must let Him accompany us in all moments of our lives. The answer is given by Peter’s profession and declaration today in the Gospel, ***“Lord to whom shall we go? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe we have come to know that you are the HOLY ONE OF GOD.”*** That was Peter’s moment. What is yours!

***TODAY THEN OFFERS A DECISION-MAKING OPPORTUNITY. WHAT IS YOUR MOMENT?***

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