

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 22nd SUNDAY YEAR A 2020

Today we have a very disturbing theme for our reflection –“*THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP*”.
To follow Christ involves *SUFFERING* and *SACRIFICE*.

It is in black and white, that to be a follower of Christ we *MUST DENY OURSELVES, TAKE UP THAT WOODEN TREE AND FOLLOW HIM*.

We need to move from the *COMFORT ZONES* of our life which sometimes are indeed deceptive and face the *REALITIES OF OUR LIFE SITUATION*. We need to *BE FOCUSED*, take up our responsibilities and face the truth of the matter.

We need to die to *SELF SEEKING, SELF PROMOTION* and *wake up to life's situations in society and the world at large*.

Last Sunday we see Peter affirming Jesus as the Son of the Living God and as Messiah. Then Jesus declared him as a *ROCK* to establish his church. There seems to be a shift of command, Peter is telling Jesus what to *DO*. He appears so firm with the keys he was given. He started practicing it with *JESUS* himself.

Peter takes Jesus aside, instructs him on how it should not be done according to his way!

In response, Jesus takes Peter and tells *HIM OFF! GET BEHIND ME SATAN!*

Jesus sees Peter as an obstacle to accomplish his mission

He must take that wooden cross.

He must carry it.

He must be nailed on it

He must redeem the world through that wooden tree.

He must give salvation to humanity.

Jesus confronts the disciples with this wooden tree which they too must face if they want to be his followers.

He is confronting us with the same wooden cross if we want to be His followers.

This is the only way to the kingdom of God.

The cross is very essential in our Christian way of life.

Everybody, regardless of who he/she is has a cross to carry.

That wooden cross does not spare any of us.

Crosses in *RELATIONSHIPS*

EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL PROBLEMS, FINANCIAL ISSUES,

HEALTH PROBLEMS, FAMILY CONFLICTS.

All these are crosses we must face at any given time in our life.

Like Peter, we do not want to face our crosses at all.

We want to *BY-PASS THEM*.

We want the shortcut route to heaven.

We want to be comfortable.

We want to kick the cross out of our way.

Rebel against it. Curse it. We want to get behind it.

Some numb themselves with addictive substances.

Some want to assume it is not there.

The cross is the truth of the sacrifice Jesus did for you and me.

It is also our proof of discipleship .

The cross teaches us sacrifice.

How are you handling your cross at this time?

Are we going to be Simon who helped Jesus on his way to the mountain?

Are we going to be like those women who were crying for Him?

Are we going to be Veronica to wipe the face of Jesus during this pandemic season?

Are we going to be like the Jews yelling crucify Him, WE DON'T KNOW HIM?

THE CHOICE IS YOURS TODAY. If you want to hear His voice, " *HARDEN NOT YOUR HEARTS*".