

**REFLECTIONS 13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY YEAR C 2022**

**JESUS THE HOMELESS DEDICATED, COMMITTED, PREACHER.**

In this Church today, along with many other churches, we all come from someplace we call **Home**. Some are here visiting friends and relatives, others perhaps are here for wine tasting but didn't want to forget their Sunday obligation. Most likely we don't have any that are actually physically homeless, at least most of the time.

Today though we are faced with the situation of a **Homeless Visitor in the name of Jesus Christ...**

Foxes have dens and the birds of the air have nests ***\*But the son of man has nowhere to lay his head!!*** **What a challenging situation for us today in our current society,** and in the world where we are faced with so many people looking for a home, with an **influx of homeless, refugees, non documented immigrants, and women and children separated from their families** due to political instability in the world.

How are we handling all these situations as followers of Christ?

Have you ever considered how lucky you are to have a place you can call home? With a family, school, decent housing, a hospital in close range, clean water to drink, electricity for comfort, a peaceful place to rest, good roads to drive on, and three meals or more to eat a day? Do you thank God for all that you have? Do you think of those who do not have even a single meal?

The person Jesus who has gathered us here today lacked a home. He was **rejected** right from the beginning of his earthly life, born in a stable for animals with no room in the Inn. Today he is being rejected again in the village of Samaria because he is a Jew. Some of his apostles are having emotional outbursts and turning violent ***\*Lord, do you want us to call fire from heaven and reduce them to ashes? (Lk 9:54)***

His mind is set for Jerusalem, very much aware of what is going to happen there...knowing He will be **rejected, betrayed, and face violent death**. Yet His Father has given him a duty and the responsibility of bringing **Salvation to His brothers and sisters**. He showed **total commitment and dedication to this call**.

In our first reading from the book of Kings we see another commitment and determination in the person of **Elisha the young prophet**. When the cloak was cast on him as a sign of the transfer of **power**, he left behind all he was doing and got rid of his past life as a farmer and followed Elijah. (He even slaughtered his oxen and burned the plowing equipment so as to never turn back to his former life). What dedication as a follower. (1king.19:20). We see the example of a total positive response and commitment to the call. Are we not also called to do this as followers of Christ? This is the very call for us today.

The same words are being echoed in the Gospel by Jesus Christ in the call of the three unnamed characters, presumably to be disciples of Christ:

\*The first one himself declared “*I will follow wherever you will go*”, but then he is told the price of being a *disciple...homelessness. (Lk.9:58)*

\*The second one is called by Jesus Himself “*Follow me*”, but he wanted first to turn back to his family responsibilities and obligations. Jesus told him categorically “*Let the dead bury their dead, as for you leave them and proclaim the kingdom*”. (Lk 9:59-60)

\*The third one volunteered, but wanted to first say farewell to his family at home. (Lk 9:61-62)

Might we all be these unnamed characters at times? Does it not apply to us? Do we ever consider the poor priests who have left their families and friends to follow this call of our Lord?

The bottom line is that the **cost of being a disciple is total commitment and dedication. Are you ready for THAT?!**

Already the cloak has been cast on us too by the very virtue of our **Baptism**. We are vested by the power of the Holy Spirit in our **Confirmation**. We are cleansed by the power of absolution in **Penance**. We are spiritually and physically fed with the **Eucharist** to face the ups, downs, and challenges of discipleship. We are strengthened further for the next stage of our journey to heaven by **Anointing** when we are weak.

**(The Sacraments guide us on the physical path to follow Jesus here in this earthly life so that we may, through His Grace, join Him forever following Him right into the Kingdom of Heaven in Spirit)**

***LET US SET OUR EYES TO HIM WITHOUT TURNING BACK  
TODAY!***