

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 21st SUNDAY YEAR-A 2023.

THE POWER OF KEYS:

In the first reading (Isaiah 22:19-23) we meet a very powerful man Shebne in the court of King Hezekia of Judah. He had a lot of **authority and power wrapped together**. He had **the keys to so many openings**. He took advantage of his position to step on the innocent people thus making himself rich at the cost of others unjustly through corruption. He used the power of keys in the wrong way hence he had to be replaced. What a great lesson for our present day leaders in the church, politics, families and all the sectors. How are you using the **Keys you have in your department!**

Keys are symbol of authority and power hence supposed to be used in the proper way with **caution and integrity whenever you use them**.

In the Gospel today (Mt. 16:13-20) we have another character in the name of Peter who is charged with very important **keys here on earth leading to everlasting life**. Peter is charged with **duties, responsibility and entrusted with very important keys**. Jesus is telling Peter to **take charge of the church**. Is Jesus serious real to entrust such to this Peter who had funny character and personality in what we read of him? We see Peter's **ups and down, weakness and strength, good and bad, brave sometimes a coward, jelly-like faith still we see the Rock in Peter**.

We have a lot to learn from this Peter on how to strengthen our relationship with God and trust in Him.

We have same or more characteristics in our relationship with Christ, we have **weakness, we deny and doubt Christ** yet Christ will always give us his hand and understand us through **forgiveness**. He will always help us to go forward again even after failing. We are human just as Peter was and Christ **entrusted him with his church here on earth (Mt. 16:18)** He further gave him the authority the **keys (v. 19) of the kingdom of heaven**. Despite our weakness, limitation and strength, Christ today is **calling you and entrusting that same church to you and me to continue the good work established by the apostle Peter**. He will always come to our help and assure us of his **presence (Behold I am with you till the end**

of time).He will stretch his hand to hold us whenever we are **sinking in the storms of life in this world.**He is telling us **Don't be afraid am the one.Christ** will always look for our potentialities,not for weakness.He is telling **you come to me just as you are.**This is the invitation.How are you going to respond to this invitation?Are you going to proclaim who Christ is! Can you be another peter and say **you are the messiah son of the living God.(v.16).****This proclamation earned peter trust with Christ.**He too is trusting us let us stand firm in our faith and proclaim Christ not out of defense or threat but out of love.

Let's not **misuse or mishandle** what has been entrusted to us with confidence.whether in the church or or in political sectors don't misuse the keys.

Christ believes in you he will be there for you in all situations facing you and will help you gradually at his own time and Space according to our capacity and need.Challenges will ever be there but let's learn from Peter a very human being yet he paddled the church in all the storms at the beginning let's take over from there.

Christ is involving you in his work and he want us to declare our stand **will you also leave! Where do we go and you have the message of eternal life.**Christ will always confront us with our failures so as to strengthen us as he did to peter cant **you watch with me even for an hour?**He will support us in the hour of our need and also give us space to grow by forgiving and giving us another chance.We all need someone to understand,bear and trust us despite our weakness.Christ doesn't ruin our chances to grow at all.He loves us.He is telling us **FEED MY FLOCK HE WANT TO ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH IN YOU TODAY,you are the ROCK HAVE THE KEYS!**