

FR.TK. REFLECTIONS 22nd SUNDAY YEAR A 2026.

COST OF DISCIPLESHIP:

Today we take a very disturbing theme of our reflections *THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP*. To follow Christ involves *SUFFERING* and *SACRIFICE* but we shouldn't forget the fact that there is still *REWARD*.

Our Gospel today is actually a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel

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

We have to move from those COMFORT ZONES of our life which sometimes are indeed deceptive and face the REALITIES OF LIFE SITUATION, BE FOCUSED, take up the responsibility face it and subject ourselves to the truth of the matter.

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

Last Sunday we see Peter affirming Jesus as the son of the living God and as Messiah in this Jesus declared him as a ROCK to establish his church today things seems to go the opposite direction. There seem 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 shouldn't 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 has to take that wooden cross.

He has to carry it.

He has to be nailed on it

He has to Redeem the world through that wooden tree.

He has to give salvation to the humanity.

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

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 assential in our Christian way of life.

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

That wooden cross doesn't spare any of us at all.

Crosses, of RELATIONSHIP

EMOTIONAL, SPIRITUAL, FINANCIAL

HEALTH, CHILDREN, PARENTS FAMILIES

VOCATIONS INSTITUTIONS LIKE THE CHURCH

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

Like Peter we don't want to face them at all, we want to bypass them, we want short cut to heaven, we want to be comfortable, this must not happen to us yet we must face it. Death to **false self, pride, arrogance and lust for pleasure we must get rid of all that if we have to enter into heaven.**

There is no absolute route to the kingdom except through that wooden tree.

WE want the short cut route to heaven.

We want to be comfortable

This must not happen to us YET we have to face it.

Death to self false, pride, lust for pleasure is inevitable if we have to get to the kingdom of God.

We want to kick the cross out of our way, rebel against it, curse it and get behind it.

Numb ourselves with addictive substances that we may not face the cross yet it is there.

We want to assume it is not there

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

This is our proof of discipleship .

The cross teaches us sacrifice.

How are you handling your cross 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.

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

THE CHOICE IS YOURS TODAY if you would hear His voice *HARDEN NOT YOUR HEART.*

