

Gospel 22nd August 2021. Cycle B

21st Sunday Ordinary Time

LORD, TO WHOM WE SHALL GO?



YOUR WORD IS LIFE

SETTING.

This is the privileged moment, in which I meet you. I listen and meditate on your Word. You are in the Word, my search is accompanied and motivated by You.

Your Word is the breath in my life that drives me to the best of me that wants to unite in the divine embrace and unfold that love that arises in me, human and divine.

Lord, I offer to You this moment; my service, surrender and praise are for You; You are here right now.

SONG. Lord, to whom we shall go - CRISTÓBAL FONES SJ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2--KPZfMaQ>

GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT JOHN: JN 6:60-69.

After hearing it, many of his followers said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this disturb you? What if you should see the Son of man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset who did not believe and who was to betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me except by the gift of the Father.' After this, many of his disciples went away and accompanied him no more. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, to whom we shall go? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we have come to know that you are the Holy One of God.'

LET US DEEPEN THE TEXT.

We contemplate the end of the discourse on the bread of life. The time for decision has come. That's right, in the same way that those who entered the Promised Land, following Joshua (first reading) and had to choose at once the God they wanted to serve, those who listened to Jesus find themselves doomed to decide. Because what Jesus says is hard to hear, but is it necessary to reject what He says? This is what can be called a real question mark.

Here is the paradox of Faith: the words of Jesus are humanly incomprehensible and yet they make us live. It is therefore necessary that we follow the path of the Apostles: to live by those words, let them feed us, let them enter us without seeking to explain them. This attitude contains a real lesson: the explanation of the Eucharist, we must not look for it in books. It is better to participate in it and let Christ lead us in the mystery of his life.

It is clear that throughout the Gospel of John this important question is restated: **to believe or not to believe**. If truly Jesus is the One sent by the Father, not to welcome, with admiration and gratitude, this gift that God gives us is crazy. And that is the silver question to Jesus' auditors: "The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But, among you, there are those who do not believe in them".

Obviously, the answer will be different: some of his disciples will stop following him (v. 66). On the contrary, in the name of the Twelve, Peter will give the answer of the Faith. The event takes place in Capernaum and we can ask ourselves why John considers it useful to specify it three times (v. 17, 24, 59). The events of the paschal mystery itself, which was outlined in all his speeches, will take place in Jerusalem, it is true, but it is in Capernaum, in Galilee, where it was announced. Let us observe that, in this story, it is an announcement of the Passion: **the abandonment of some and the determined decision of the others prefigure the cross.** Jesus is rejected, already, by almost everyone: Twelve, only remain from the great multitude (five thousand men) present at the multiplication of the loaves.

Jesus has posed the question “of trust”: “Do you want to leave too?” Curious vocabulary: the ones “left”, Peter says “To whom shall we go?” Once again it is clear that Faith is not a baggage, but a path. A path on which you have to let yourself be guided. “No one can come to me, says Jesus, if this is not given to him by the Father”,

CLUES FOR THE PRAYER.

1. Do you experience that the language of Jesus is harsh? Justify your answer.
2. Do you want to leave? What makes you leave or stay?

MAY YOUR WORD ACCOMPANY ME ALWAYS _____

AMBIENTAL MUSIC. The water is wide-DAVID MODICA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yT1V9Tsesww>

WE BELIEVE, WE WILL GO TO YOU.

Lord, to whom shall we go,
if you are our life,
our love, our everything.
You hold me,
I turn to You
with the word and with the gesture,
with all that I am.
Your presence gives me strength
to keep looking for You.
The certainties on the way

come inspired by the Spirit,
what is the strength;
certainty is what
makes me know and feel that it is more,
what I gain than what I lose.
It is the faith that makes me experience
your Kingdom in the shared smile,
in the heartfelt embrace,
in the life that is at stake.
Believing in the One who inspires,
the good, the true, what He generates
is to abandon oneself to the wind,
that surrounds you, shakes you,
and pulls you forward
feeling yourself light, soft...
Advancing with You
involves taking the risk of trusting.
It involves abandoning oneself in the whirlwind.
It involves getting up all the time.
It means being ready for anything.
It involves opening new paths.
It involves to allow
everyone to count on you.
It involves that You set the pace.
It involves opening your eyes to what is different.
It involves speaking universal languages.
It involves understandable gestures.
It involves putting everything at stake...
And in the end, letting oneself go with You.
Being with You, You know me;
Come with me.

SONG. From a taller trunk - Cristobal Fones, SJ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=766iQ7wQbY4>



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