

Gospel, 12 September 2021. Cycle B
Sunday 24th Ordinary Time

I WILL WALK IN YOUR PRESENCE



LORD OF THE LITTLE CHILDREN

AMBIENCE

Walk with someone you feel safe, it is a joy.

Make silence, invoke your presence, praise and bless your person.
Lord open my ear, focus my glance, put your Word in my mouth,
encourage my steps.

Allow me to be, to be fashioned by you, your life, your style, your
message and opt for You from the life that I received from you every
day gratuitously.

You are, I am, we are together in this.

SONG. «You are the Power that shapes my life», Paulines

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmvAP1-hEo4>

GOSPEL - Mark 8, 27-35, 12

" Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets."

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ. "Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it."

We deepen the text

Suddenly, Peter dares to make the most extraordinary statement that could be imagined at that time: "You are the Messiah." What is surprising is the reaction of Jesus; he does not reject the title, but quickly, Jesus gives a strict command of silence. Several times we had found the famous "messianic secret. It's too early to tell everyone that Jesus is the Messiah, this title is too ambiguous. Because it is true that He is the expected Messiah, but not as they expected! This is what Jesus will try to make clear to his disciples: «For first time, Jesus teaches them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. »

To Jewish ears, this speech was completely paradoxical: at the same time that Jesus claims the title of Messiah (Son of man is a synonym), Jesus foresees failure, suffering, death. When Jesus applies the title of Son of man to himself, he presents himself as the one who places himself at the head of the people of God. He is, without doubt, the Messiah that comes to establish God's Kingdom over the earth.

And in all this is not a matter of suffering! What madness! Peter is right when he rebelled against that idea. Like many of his contemporaries, Peter expected a Messiah-king, triumphant, glorious, powerful, and capable of dispatching the Roman invader from Palestine at once. For this reason, that cannot accept what Jesus

announces. The God Almighty cannot allow such things to happen!
We can This text could be given the title of: "The first denial of Peter", the first refusal to follow the Messiah in suffering. Jesus addresses this spontaneous rejection of Peter as a real temptation for himself and replied intensity: « You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do. »

It is so much natural to have our points of view «fully human». But we have to let the Spirit transform them, and even, sometimes, to change them completely if we want to be faithful to God's plan.

Because God's plan of salvation doesn't fit to a triumphant Messiah: As St. Paul says: "that all people may come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Tm 2, 4). It is needed that they may discover the God of tenderness and forgiveness, the God of mercy and compassion. "For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it."

Keys for prayer

1. Become aware for a moment of your faith, of the way of perceiving God: How is your approach, the way of understanding God, the way of Peter or Jesus? Are your thoughts like those of God or like those of men?
2. Who is Jesus for you?
3. What steps would the Church, your community, you ... have to take to get closer to the way of understanding God that Jesus shows us?

YOUR WORKS WILL SHOW YOU FAITH

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC Taizé - O Lord hear my prayer

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

TO TAKE THE CROSS

Walking the road...
Well, let's do it positively.
You don't ask for empty denials
Non real options.

Just ask the choice of the heart,
reverse schemes, to be humble.
Allow to be carried away by the heart,
To be aware.
See when is needed to invest.
To do it with dignity, with justice,
to choose humanity.
Do not deny yourself, for what?
That is not what the Lord ask from you, be positive,
Making possible the welfare of all,
above all, of those who have nothing.
Be the hope, cheer the sad one.
Raise up those who have fallen.
Bear the impertinent,
draw smiles,
choose everything that is good.
Sow love, lucidity and passion,
For life, for the people, for God.
Allow the talents to come up.
Welcome new projects,
Proclaim the humor,
Be sincere and do good Works.
Practice consolation,
caminad juntos,
build to be one.
Thank the past,
dwell in the present,
oriented towards the future.
Take up the cross and follow Him.

SONG. "Lord I offer my life to You"- Hillsong

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



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