

5th SUNDAY OF LENT
March 20/21
Gospel: John 12.20-33

Deacon Victor Mesta

Dear Brothers and Sisters, the second reading taken from the Book of Hebrews talk to us of the human side of Jesus, perhaps we didn't realize this, but it talks to us of a Jesus offering up prayers and supplications to his father, with loud cries and tears, knowing that his death is near.

But, Jesus was obedient to his father, and this gave to him the strength that he needs to become the source of salvation for each one of us.

After that, we heard the Gospel that explains us the rule of life for every Christian, and Jesus presents it to us in a simple and comprehensible way – Jesus says:

If the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it will bear much fruit.

Brothers and Sisters, one of the key realities of the Kingdom of God is that life springs from death. And, Jesus is telling to his disciples that the hour has come for him to die like a grain of wheat to bear fruit in abundance.

God made us, and called us, to bear fruit, but as long as we hold on to the world and our old ways, it will be impossible for us to do it.

What we heard today is an invitation for each one of us, - an invitation to follow him, - an invitation to die with him in order to live in him, and in this way, you and me will bear fruits.

We heard in the Gospel that Jesus explained to his disciples that he would have to die too. But his death led to life and they had to be patient, and had to have faith.

Parents understand this very well. They have to make many sacrifices for the good of their children, they need to be patients, and believe that their sacrifices will bear fruit.

We need to believe in God, and we need to be patients as well, I know that it is not easy, particularly when we are having hard times but that is what Jesus taught us.

Brothers and Sisters, there are times in our lives when nothing seems to make sense. Maybe we think that our sufferings, our sacrifices in our families, in our work, will not bear fruit, and it is in this moment ... when a question comes up in our minds. - If God loves us, why do we suffer?

But the answer is in the today's Gospel

We heard that Jesus says:

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: “Father, save me from this hour”?”

And, then Jesus says:

No, ... I came to face this hour

Brothers and Sisters, this simple statement shows us how to conform our will to God’s will, and this is a powerful teaching for each one of us.

When we have been brought low through suffering and fear; when we feel that all is lost, when we feel that we are dying – that is the moment when we can find the deepest connection with God.

Jesus told us today:

Those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life,

... sacrifices and sufferings are part of our Christian life. We are grains of wheat and we need to die to bear fruits.

Brothers and Sisters, if you are passing through these hard times, - don’t give up - don’t be afraid - be faithful – God is with us, Amen.