

## Take 2 With Jesus

### Daily Reflections on the Sunday Gospel

Week beginning Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September.

### *Jesus teaches on good and evil.*

This week's reflections are based on the Gospel reading for the 26th Sunday Ordinary Time Year B, (Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48). Further reflections on this Gospel can be found at <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au/sunday/show/601/gospel>.

#### **Sunday**

*John said to Jesus,*

*'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting our devils  
in your name and because he was not one of us, we tried to stop him.'*

*(Jn 9: 38)*

How priggish! This is just the attitude of the religious authorities who persecuted Jesus. Basically it says, if you are not one of us we will not recognise the good you do. Another name for it is tribalism.

*Loving Jesus, give me a generous spirit that can affirm and delight in goodness whenever it happens but especially when it is done by people who do not belong to my group.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through the day by noticing and enjoying any goodness you see done.

## Monday

*Jesus said,  
'Anyone who is not against us is for us.'  
(Mk 9:40)*

In reading the Gospels, it seems there were plenty of people watching what others were doing and deciding who was 'in' and who was 'out' - more often 'out'. We all have this attitude - it is a form of self-protection. But ultimately it was this attitude that killed Jesus. Jesus himself was so welcoming of people, he was able to forgive his murderers.

*Loving Jesus, prise open my prejudices. Let me rejoice in the positive things other people do and realise that you desire the fullness of life for them as much as you do for me.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by considering the people you are prejudiced against and looking for positive things in them.

## Tuesday

*Jesus said,  
'If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ,  
...he or she will not lose their reward.'  
(Mk 9: 41)*

Water would have cost nothing in Jesus' society...just a little effort! Really giving a cup of water was the least a person could do for another. And Jesus makes this the standard from which he will reward us. If we could but realise how generously God want to be with us, we would give so generously ourselves.

*Loving Jesus, let me realise that even with the most insignificant acts I can share in your generosity.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer this day by noticing what insignificant acts you can do...and do them.

## Wednesday

*Jesus said,*

*'But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones, who have faith, would be better thrown in the sea with a millstone around his or her neck.'*

*(Mk 9:42)*

This is not a part of the Gospel we often stop to ponder for ourselves – why it applies to others surely! No, it calls for each of us to ask seriously what impact our words and actions have on people who are weaker than us in faith. We all need to develop a conscience that asks how our actions affect others – for good or for bad.

*Loving Jesus, send me your discerning Spirit to understand just what impact my words and deeds have on the faith of other people, especially the children around me.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noticing what type of faith your actions would preach to others.

## Thursday

*Jesus said,*

*'If your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off:  
it is better to enter into life crippled than to have two hands and go to hell.'*

*(Mk 9:43)*

Jesus wants us to ask ourselves seriously what causes us to sin. We would like to think it just happens, thoughtlessly. “Oops, I did it again – but it really wasn’t my fault.” But Jesus asks us to reflect on the dynamics of our lives and see what precedes our sin and failure. Sin doesn’t come out of the blue – it comes out of our own hearts.

*Loving Jesus, give me your Spirit of wisdom and courage to face the reality of my life. Show me how I use the gifts you have given me for good...and for evil.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by noticing how you use your hands for good...and for evil.

## Friday

*Jesus said,  
'If your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off...'  
(Mk 9:45)*

Jesus uses three graphic images of amputation of hand, foot and eye to ponder about the different ways we move into sin. With the image of our 'foot' we can ask ourselves that things in life do we pursue. What are we chasing after? Is it good for us, for our family, for our community?

*Loving Jesus, my hearts is restless with desires and sometimes they led me into sin. Let me see that when I pursue your love and the care of others, my life and my heart will blossom with love.*

Pray the words that Jesus taught us...Our Father, who art in heaven...

Continue your prayer through this day by asking yourself what desires are expressed in your daily life.

## Saturday

*Jesus said,  
'And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out.'  
(Mk 9:47)*

Ah, we are a very viewing society. Between TV, internet, magazines, newspapers we do a lot of seeing but to what good? Yes, we need recreation...but what is all this seeing, 're-creating' within us? The media can do so much good but we have first to choose what we will see. Maybe we should regularly ask ourselves what impact what we watch has on us.

*Loving Jesus, there is so much good that I can watch and see in our world. Let me choose wisely, knowing that what enters through my eyes will affect my mind, my heart and my life.*

Continue your prayer through this day noticing what you choose to read and watch.

---

'Take 2 with Jesus' is an initiative of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton. This material is written by Sr. Kym Harris osb. © All material is copyright but may be freely used in free publications with acknowledgement of source and the author.

---