



PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee September 2022

Check Points for a Disciple

We're in the second half of Ordinary Time, and sure enough, the Church brings us back to center: the Cross. It is not by chance that the Exaltation of the Cross is a central September feast. The whole of Ordinary Time is a formation in discipleship flowing from the Cross and Resurrection. So, what are the formation points for us this month?

First, we're reminded that we can't be part-time disciples. We need full-time resolve. Then we are given the powerful parable of the Prodigal Son, to remind us that we are to be Reconcilers wherever our families, communities, work, or retirement take us. Then the last two Sundays make sure we understand where true riches lie...inwardly and outwardly in our public lives.



But we are not to lose sight of the Cross. Why? Because the Cross is the fullness of revelation about God and ourselves. About God, because nowhere, in any other religion, is God revealed as hanging on a tree, dying. Here the hidden God is revealed through the Word, joined to our humanity as a self-sacrificing Lover. More, we are not merely told. We are shown, by life-blood being poured out in a Spirit-burst upon the unsuspecting world. Among all the world religions, this is radical revelation.

But we too are revealed. We are tortured, tormented, broken, scourged, ridiculed, thirsty, abandoned and abused. And where is God while we struggle? There...in our midst. Look at the human form of your brother and sister. There...that's where God is. The radical revelation is complete. The union finalized. God is not safe in heaven. God is wherever we are.

*“We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
For by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.”
It's shocking.
It turns everything upside down.
Where is the majesty, the power, the splendor, the glory?
Head mocked for its hopes, plans, and dreams...
Hands nailed so they can't help...
Feet fastened so they can't come running...
Heart open like a window without shutters,
where I can run and hide anytime.
No condemnation? No.
No condemnation. Amen.*

Thank you to S. Helen Harry for the September reflections.

Sunday, September 4, 2022 | 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 9:13-18b, Phlm 9-10, 12-17, Lk 14:25-33

Jesus, You catch me off guard in the Gospel today. You remind me that being your disciple means letting go of all attachments even to those that are good. You remind me too that I don't follow a superhero but One who gave up all so that I can have You, the ultimate good and all things in You.

Sunday, September 11, 2022 | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ex 32:7-11, 13-14, 1 Tm 1:12-17, Lk 15:1-32

In the readings this week we learn of the infinite patience and love of God. As we make mistakes or go our own way on our journey, our God looks for us with deep longing. He seeks us in the depths of our hearts till we recognize that still small voice and begin our return to Him and He welcomes us with great joy whether we have left physically or only in our erroneous beliefs. Our God never gives up on us.

Sunday, September 18, 2022 | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49, Ps 56:10c-14, Lk 8:4-15

It is so easy to find fault in others especially those in positions of leadership of any kind. This seems especially true in our world today. In his letter to Timothy St. Paul gives us the antidote and the way to live a quiet and tranquil life. Rather than criticize Paul exhorts Timothy and us to pray for everyone especially all in authority not for our own will but so that everyone can be saved and come to the truth. In that way we won't squander the gift of Faith we have been given but that we put it to use in the service of others.

Sunday, September 25, 2022 | 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Am 6:1a, 4-7, 1 Tm 6:11-16, Lk 16:19-31

In every major city and probably small towns as well, people stand in the median with signs announcing they are out of work or homeless hoping they will receive a donation. Whether we give them something or not they remain anonymous to us. It struck me that in the Gospel today, the poor man Lazarus is named while the rich man is anonymous. Our God hears and knows the poor and the poor in spirit and invites them by name to His banquet.