

The Second Passion Prediction (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20: The Suffering Son of God

1. Righteous Man: persecuted by the wicked (2:12)
2. Son of God: if he is “God’s son,” he will help him (2:17)
3. Suffering and Death: he is subject to “insult” and “torture,” a “shameful death” (2:20)

Psalm 54—The LORD Sustains My Life

1. Suffering Psalmist: the psalmist is persecuted by “ruthless men” (v. 3)
2. Thanksgiving: he offers a “sacrifice” of “thanksgiving” (v. 6)

James 3:16-4:3—Disorder vs. Wisdom from Above

1. Disorder: wherever “jealousy” and “selfish ambition” (3:16)
2. Wisdom: a “harvest of righteousness” is reaped by “those who make peace” (3:18)

Mark 9:30-37—The Son of Man Will Be Handed Over to Death

1. Jesus’ 2nd Passion Prediction:
 - a. Prediction: the “Son of man” will be killed and rise again (9:30-31)
 - b. Misunderstanding: “but they did not understand the saying” (9:32)
2. Who is the Greatest Disciple?
 - a. Disciples’ Discussion: “who was the greatest” (9:34)
 - b. Greatness: “If any one would be first (Greek *prōtos*)...
 - c. Servant: “he must be *last of all* and *servant* (Greek *diakonos*) of all...
3. Example: Receiving the Child
 - a. Whoever receives a “child” (Greek *paidion*) “in my name” receives “me...”
 - b. Whoever receives “me” receives “him who sent me” (=God)

Living Tradition: Theophylact’s Commentary (11th century A.D.)

Theophylact of Ohrid: “Now the disciples still saw things from a very human point of view, and they had been quarrelling amongst themselves about which of them was the greatest and the most esteemed by Christ. Yet the Lord did not restrain their desire for preeminent honor; indeed he wishes us to aspire to the most exalted rank. He does not however wish us to seize the first place, but rather to win the highest honor by humility. He stood a child among them because he wants us to become childlike. A child has no desire for honor; it is not jealous, and it does not remember injuries. And he said: “If you become like that, you will receive a great reward, and if, moreover for my sake, you honor others who are like that, you will receive the kingdom of heaven; for your will be receiving me, and in receiving me you receive the one who sent me.” You see then what great things humility, together with simplicity and guilelessness, can accomplish. It causes both the Son and the Father to dwell in us, and with them of course comes the Holy Spirit also. (Theophylact, *Commentary on Mark’s Gospel*; trans. E. Barnecutt, p.

118-119).

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B)

1. Who is the “righteous man” to whom the Wisdom of Solomon refers? How is this a prophecy of Christ?

2. Why do you think the disciples did not “understand” Jesus’ second prediction of the Passion? What is hindering their ability to receive his teaching?

3. Practically speaking, what does it mean for Jesus’ disciples to seek to be “last” in order to be first? Consider Cardinal Merry del Val “Litany of Humility” (available online) as an example.

For Further Study

1. Mary Healy. *The Gospel of Mark*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. Pp. 182-86.
2. Edith Barnecut, *Journey with the Fathers: Commentaries on the Sunday Gospels Year B* (Hyde Park: New City Press, 1993), 118-19.