

There was a line in the Gospel last week that was easy to miss among THE question: *who do you say that I am?* Which Jesus asked his disciples AND all the talk of taking up one's cross and following after Jesus.

I think, though, it is important for us to pay attention to this line – for it kind of pulls together the Gospels of the next several weeks.

I also think this line kind of tells us what the Christian life is all about in a nutshell – for it gives us the interior work all of us need to do as a Christian – that most likely will take us a lifetime to achieve.

And the line is: **“you are thinking not as God does – but as human beings do.”**

Jesus spoke that line to Peter last week when Peter objected to the thought of the Son of Man suffering greatly, being rejected, and being killed. That's when Jesus told Peter – you object to all of this because you are thinking not as God does – but as human beings do.

When you think like human beings – and not like God --- then you discuss among yourselves who is the greatest as the disciples do today – and you jostle for positions of authority rather than places of service.

When you think like human beings – and not like God – than you expend your time and energy wondering who is on your side and who isn't as John will do in the Gospel next week --> or you test Jesus with questions as the Pharisees do in the Gospel the following week. . . and on it goes.

Every time we think like human beings – and not like God – then we are not putting the values of the Gospel into practice. . .

So when I am quick to judge – and slow to forgive – I am not thinking like God

When I hold on to past pains and hurts instead of turning loose of them – then I am thinking like a human being – and not like God.

When I want to make someone BEG for forgiveness instead of freely offering it – I am NOT thinking like God. . .

When I want to hold tight to what is MINE – instead of realizing everything I have is a gift from God – I am NOT thinking like God.

Do you get the picture?

When I am critical instead of helpful.

Hold tight rather than let go.

Jealous instead of generous.

Resentful rather than forgiving.

Proud rather than humble.

Doubting rather than faithful.

Selfish rather than self-less.

Then I am think like a human being – and not like God.

St. Paul hits the nail on the head when he says in our second reading: “But the wisdom from above” – that is when we think like God, and not as human beings – “is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity.”

“Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from?” he goes on to ask. . . “Is it not from your passions that make war within your members?” That is – is it not from thinking like human beings – rather than God???

All our lives we are in transition from forsaking the ways of mere humanity – to embracing the very nature of God. We are in that mix of water and wine at the preparation of the gifts – asking God that we may share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself in our humanity. We are the bread being broken and the wine being poured out at Communion – wanting to be changed by what we eat --- hoping to leave this place a little less human and little more divine.

We want to heed the advice of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans: (12:2)

“Do not to conform yourself to the things of this age – but be transformed by the renewal of your mind – that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Or in his letter to the Philippians (2:5 f)

“Have in you the same mind that is in Christ Jesus,

Who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be held on to.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave.

He humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.”

Yes, God is after our hearts – he wants to give us a total heart transplant. Removing our stony hearts and giving us a merciful heart like His. . . But God wants our minds as well. . .

God wants us to think as He does – not as human beings do. And that will give our lives as a Christian – a new horizon and a decisive direction.