



September 3, 2017 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 124 Gospel MT 16:21-27

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised. Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you." He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

Spiritual Reflection: You cannot enter into a relationship and expect it to last unless you are also willing to be with the person in good times and in bad. The same is true with God. If you only want to practice your faith when you feel like it, then your faith will never grow.

Spiritual Questions

1. What must have been going through Peter's mind when Jesus rebuked him?
2. What amount of courage did Peter have to remain a part of the group despite being publicly rebuked by Jesus?
3. How can we think more like God and less like ourselves?
4. What role does suffering play in Jesus' mission?
5. What role does suffering play in your own life?