

## **Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time, Cycle B**

***Isaiah 50:5-9      James 2:14-18      Mark 8:27-35***

### **HOMILY**

We call the third reading from Scripture that we proclaim at Mass the ‘Gospel’ Which literally means ‘Good News.’ What is our understanding of Good News? A searching question Our Lord is trying to put before us. But it is very easy for anyone of us to think that the proclamation of the Good news means that we do we don’t have to face the reality of the Bad News. We tend to keep Bad News away from the Good News. In fact there is tremendous pressure on the preacher of any church to sell Christ in the same way that politicians sell themselves as a quick fix to solve our problems. We may be tempted to sell Jesus in the same way.

When Jesus turns to his disciples with the question *‘But you, who do you say that I am?’*

Peter proclaims the Good news alright for which he is praised and designated as rock in other Gospel passages. Peter proclaims Jesus is the Christ which means the Messiah. It was not enough for Jesus to be incensed as the Christ by Peter and that is why Jesus began to school them into what it means to be the Christ. Suffering, rejection and being put to death must be in the package of who the Christ is. These cannot be separated from the understanding of the Christ. Jesus who is Messiah is not a quick Fix like politicians on campaign. Peter proclaimed Jesus as Messiah in terms of quick Fix. He was so wrapped up in this understanding of the Good News that he simply wanted to stop there with it. Peter and the other disciples had reasons to be locked up in that kind of thinking.

They had seen the wonderful works of Jesus as well as his miracles and healings so much so that Peter and his other followers of Christ they and were not prepared to face the notion of a Suffering Messiah. No wonder, Peter began to protest to the notion of a suffering Messiah. Peter the Rock began to degenerate

into a stumbling block in the journey of Jesus, which is why Jesus said to him  
*'Get behind me Satan.'*

Before we embrace the Good News that Jesus offers us we must be prepared to face the Bad News that goes before it. Those of us, followers of Christ must not stop at the great works and miracles of Jesus. We must go beyond and far deeper. There is no Good News without squarely facing the Bad News. There is no Good News without facing the crosses in our lives and our world. The Good News is that despite our brokenness and daily crosses, we can still praise God and even give God thanks because the Lord is our help.

