

Sunday, May 05, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

The goal doesn't change

Common wisdom says everything we need to know about life, we heard in kindergarten. Basic principles like being kind to everyone, sharing what we have, including with the new kid, saying please and thank you—these don't lose their value as we and the kids around us get older. In a similar way, the demands of discipleship don't change the longer we travel the road with Jesus. The first thing Jesus says to newcomers is “follow me.” One of the last conversations the Risen Lord has with Peter includes the words “follow me.” To get where Jesus is going, keep following.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19 (48). “*And when Jesus had said this, he said to Peter, ‘Follow me.’*”

Monday, May 06, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

Here's your cue

The great thing about the gospel stories is that they show the all-too-human way in which folks scurry after Jesus in the wake of a really big miracle like his multiplying of the loaves and fishes or walking on water. In doing so they hold a mirror up to us. Sure, we care about his message, but most of us also like having a friend in high places to answer our calls! Here's the thing, though: Jesus isn't looking for a fan club or stardom; he wants us to pay attention to his gospel and respond to his call. He wants us to get to work, not wait for a show. Are we ready to take the stage ourselves and play a role?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273). “*When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they . . . came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.*”

Tuesday, May 07, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

Do you see clearly?

Early in the 20th century quantum physicists discovered a mysterious phenomenon they called the “disturbing observer.” They had learned that merely *observing* a quantum particle changes it in unpredictable ways. As a result, scientists have had to develop elaborate methods for their experiments to compensate for the changes their observations cause. What is true at the quantum level of reality holds true at the visible level as well, only the effects are much more subtle. In other words, your attitude toward a person or event has an unpredictable effect on what you perceive. Today, be aware that what you observe is partly of your own making. Are you judging or loving?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 7:51-8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274). “*What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?*”

Wednesday, May 08, 2019

MEMORIAL OF TERESA DEMJANOVICH

Quiet faith, big impact

Living a brief, obscure life has never been a barrier to sainthood. Such was the destiny of today's memorial saint: Blessed Teresa Demjanovich, born in Bayonne, New Jersey in 1901. She earned a college degree (unusual for women then) and soon after became a nun. Two years later, at age 27, she died of complications following a surgery. Today scholars recognize that

she latched onto the idea of the universal call to holiness decades before the church emphasized the concept in Vatican II. Do you prefer holiness that is spectacular? If so, challenge yourself to also seek faithfulness in the hidden corners, as did Blessed Teresa.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275). “*For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life.*”

Thursday, May 09, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

Ask and you shall receive

Often in life you can use a mentor: someone wiser and more experienced to show you the ropes. A couple married longer than you knows a little something about getting past the rough spots. A retired colleague can share a few tricks about problem-solving at the office. In a story from the Acts of the Apostles, an Ethiopian eunuch was clearly on a faith journey: not a Jew, yet traveling to Jerusalem to worship and read Hebrew prophecy. He'd done all the prep work for faith: walking the walk, doing his homework. Now all he needed was a guide. Cue Philip. As the saying goes: “The teacher appears when the student is ready.” Need a mentor? Prepare to receive one!

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276). “*He replied, ‘How can I, unless someone instructs me?’*”

Friday, May 10, 2019

MEMORIAL OF DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, PRIEST

Take it to the limit

How far would you go for God? Father Damien de Veuster went all the way from his native Belgium to minister in Hawaii. He went all the way to the margins of society to care for the bodies and souls of lepers in a quarantined colony there. He went all the way to living in solidarity with them—tending their wounds and eating with them from his hands—and contracted leprosy himself. When he died in 1889, news of his death went all the way around the world via telegraph and steamship. Be inspired by this saint to take the next steps in your service to the mission of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277). “*Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks my Blood has eternal life.*”

Saturday, May 11, 2019

EASTER WEEKDAY

When the rubber hits the road

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and left untried,” wrote British author G.K. Chesterton. The gospel teachings are indeed challenging; they go against the grain, especially in a culture that encourages us to focus on a different “trinity”—the self-absorbed trinity of Me, Myself, and I. Jesus challenged us to look beyond our own needs (which God is fully aware of in any case) and respond to the needs of those around us. Many walked the other way when they heard this message. But others stayed. Will you stay or will you go?

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278). “*Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, ‘This saying is hard; who can accept it?’*”

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



©2019 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. **Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.**