

30 August 2020 - Homily - Matthew 16: 21-27
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In the gospel of Matthew Jesus is telling his disciples that in order to fulfill his mission as the messiah he has to go to Jerusalem in order to fall into the hands of the sanhedrin. The sanhedrin is the religious ruling body of Jerusalem compiled of the chief priests, elders and scribes. Jesus says to his disciples that he has to be killed, however the good news is that he will raise back to life on the third day.

Peter is afraid to be alone without Christ so out of his fear he starts to rebuke Jesus. Upon hearing it however, Jesus realizes that Peter is influenced and tempted through his fear by Satan. Jesus turns around and tells Peter to get behind him for protection from Satan. Then Jesus puts Satan in his place and rebukes him for his ignorance.

The way according to Jesus' teachings that we are to get rid of the influence of Satan from our lives is to willingly fulfill our daily responsibilities. Satan wants to steal our happiness by tempting us to live irresponsible lives. Ultimate Irresponsibility leads to a life in prison. A bill unpaid grows until its so big that it can lead to bankruptcy.

According to Hebraic tradition it was believed that when a person died, their soul would hover around the body for the next three days. However on the fourth day the soul would venture into sheol, the afterlife place of the dead. Death is victorious on the fourth day. Jesus resurrects on the third day to demonstrate that he fully died, went into Hell in order to rescue the souls from there and bring them up to heaven. However Jesus demonstrates his victory over death by not letting it have dominion over him on the fourth day. Therefore he raised on the third day.

The future is judgemental, it determines whether we live or die. The future requires sacrifice in order to make it good. Sacrifice something of great value and importance in the present, in order to make your future better. The greater the sacrifice the better the future. Jesus dying on the cross for the sins of humanity is the ultimate sacrifice possible. It is God sacrificing himself to himself. There is no possible greater sacrifice. Therefore the ultimate best future is victory over sin and death. Sacraments and eternal life.

Praying for all of you.

Fr. Paul Magyar