

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, in this Gospel, along the way, He meets three men who have heard His call in their hearts; however, in each case, Jesus does not smooth the way, He challenges them to enter into His way!

He gives us three tough lessons about what it means to follow Christ: To follow Christ means to enter into the insecurity of radically depending upon His Divine Providence. To follow Him means that His call and friendship must take precedence above every other relationship in this life. To follow Him means that I am called to persevere despite the very hard work that is required! It means that we must transfer our sense of loyalty and security and relocate it to Christ. It means that I must unlearn the lessons I have been taught since I was a child to rely only upon myself for success and happiness and my security; and to rely wholly upon God, depending solely upon His Divine Grace in my life. This is what Jesus meant by saying: “The foxes have dens, and the birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

In the extraordinary story: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Timnus, the faun says: “He is a good lion, but he is not a tame lion...” Christ is indeed trustworthy: we can put all of our faith, hope and trust in Him, but Christ is not predictable. When we enter into a true relationship with Him, we enter into the Shekinah, the whirlwind of fire in which God appears to Moses, Elijah, Peter, James and John. When we decide to follow Him, we must decide to let go of our way, in order to enter into His way, one day at a time- He does not give us an outline of how things will unfold; we must decide that we are called to live in His Divine Providence. The Divine Providence does not mean we will not experience great difficulties; rather, it means that God will reveal Himself to us in the midst of these difficulties. To follow Him means to follow under His Divine Leadership, not our instincts; but that does not mean that I do not use my head, Jesus will not ride our bicycle for us!

Even foxes and birds have their natural instincts and natural habitats, but we are on an unpredictable road with Christ, and He is in the lead- let us follow Him with

all our hearts, minds and souls, and He will indeed lead us into His Divine Kingdom!