

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith In Laity Corner



21st Sunday Ordinary Times

The Chosen

Readings Is.22:19-23, Rm 11:33-36, Mt. 16. 13-20

Being 'Chosen' is not a bad idea... it just depends on who is doing the choosing. I guess that *chosen* to win the 700 million -dollar Lotto is a great choice, winning an employment or academic award, or chosen in your favorite sport for a professional contract all are wonderful reasons to be chosen. Yet, when God' chooses a plan you did not want or expected, the idea of being *chosen* is not so ideal at all. So sorry to inform you, that is the way God works. In the first reading for the 21st Sunday of our Ordinal times, the words echoed from the Book of Isaiah, let us know as much.

"I will thrust you from your office

and pull you down from your station." (Is. 22:19)

For some strange reason, God choose you to be moved from your place of comfort, and everything that you hold dear, would be taken from you. Think of people whose homes were consumed by fire, floods in Texas, mudslides, earthquakes or demolition- with nothing left and nowhere to go... Of all the millions of people God could have chosen, He chose you to undergo these unfortunate events. But Why??? *(I don't know!)*

Then God does the 'unspeakable' He strips you of your prized position, on your job, school, among your peers.

"I will clothe him with your robe,

gird him with your sash,

confer on him your authority." (Is. 22:21)

He chooses someone else and gives them His blessings instead. You were no longer the chosen one. God has taken the authority which once belonged to you and gave it to someone else to be the new light to Israel. The question is *'Why did we lose our rank from being Chosen by God?'* Many times, it is due to our selfishness, pride and disregard for Him that we suffer this fate. Here we have to be humble before the Lord.

In the 2nd Reading from the Book of St. Paul to the Romans we find the answer:

*"How inscrutable are His judgments and
how unsearchable his ways!" (Rm.11:33)*

The choices God make and the people He chooses to either complete His Will or confront forces of evil; are always beyond our human intelligence.

"For who has known the mind of the Lord" (Rm. 11:34)

How can we question or conclude the thinking of God? Impossible!!

"For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things." (Rm. 11:34)

Just as Jesus chose His first 12 Apostles, forever to go down as the original; all priests are called and chosen by God to lead His People. Once chosen they are given the charge, the authority with the responsibility.

"I will place the key of the House of David on his shoulder." (Is. 22:22)

A Jewish leader was appointed by God 700 years before Jesus, by the Prophet Isaiah with the utterance of words spoken from God. Jesus later provides the New Testament version; that men chosen by God for the priesthood have been given this level of authority.

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 16:

Each Catholic priest anointed by God, through the hands of the bishop receives the *'keys to the Kingdom'*, dispensing Grace and mercies through the Sacraments and the Mass. Priests are given the implicit authority that

*"What he opens, no one will shut,
what he shuts, no one will open." (Is.22:22)*

Jesus again confirms this pronouncement as He states the provision of authority for those Chosen by God to be priests when He said:

*“Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Mt. 16:19)*

We are through the blood of Jesus Christ part of a chosen group; we are all chosen by God’s to do His Will every day in our lives, with no questions asked.

We remember our relatives and friends in Texas, may our generosity and prayers bring support during these difficult time. Let us continue to pray for the victims of mudslides in Sierra Leone.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday’s readings written by
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