



Saturday of the twenty-fifth week in Ordinary Time Year 1

Gospel

Lk 9:43-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of humanity ... All who wish to be first must make themselves the servants of all.

At a time when everyone was full of admiration for all he did, Jesus said to his disciples, 'For your part, you must have these words constantly in your mind: The Son of Man is going to be handed over into the power of men.' But they did not understand him when he said this; it was hidden from them so that they should not see the meaning of it, and they were afraid to ask him about what he had just said.

Homily – Fr Graham Fullick Lk 9:43-45 Jesus will be handed over delivered into the power of men 250921

25th Week after Pentecost (Ordinary time) Saturday 25 September, 2021.

You know from your experience as a parent of a child or as a child who is now adult that parents have wisdom or foreknowledge from experience of what may happen to their children. They seek to lead their children into commitment to become fully mature and alive. You realise that a child has free will, but that the free will is fallen, selfish, has irrational fears and sometimes cannot transcend the fear of small hurts for a more perfected will or being. That can be in small things such as the fears and scrapes of learning to ride a bicycle, saving some ice cream for later, or bigger things like commitment to study for the HSC or to save for a house or a business.

We are in chapter 9 of St. Luke's Good News which in vv. 1-50 (here we are at vv.43-45) talks about **the true nature of Messianic discipleship**. This is the discipleship that the Apostles themselves must take up, but are presently too selfish, ignorant or afraid of the commitment of accepting and doing! In vv. 28-36 Jesus has just had his glory as the co-equal "Son" of God manifest in the Transfiguration, then he performs a powerful healing of a father's son from demonic possession (vv. 37-42). At the end of this 9th. Chapter, Jesus sets his face resolutely to Jerusalem (vv. 51 and 53). The disciples do not understand that the Son of Man must suffer and be put into the hands of men, the world of Original Sin, the world of the Fall. Yet the disciples are (this Sunday) about to argue that they have lost status because someone else has cast out a devil and not them using Jesus' name. Christ's Incarnation,

coming into the world as the God become Man is absolutely necessary as the agonising, regretful, but willing, accepting victim redeeming them and us.

This suffering to come is the vicarious atonement for our and their sins of pride, “no” to obedience. The whole of Christ’s coming to Earth is about servant discipleship, ruling from the Cross. This is not to say or for us to interpret sinfully (just like the disciples in this chapter) that servant discipleship means the Apostles must serve the egos of the fallen flock and give them only what they (or we) want to hear or a Church in their (or our) own worldly imagining! That is the very point Jesus is warning them (and us) *against*. They are fearful to understand the commitment to change.

This is the pivot in Luke’s Good News. The next ten chapters (to 19:27) are in fact the way to Jerusalem and the Passion. **The Good News is in fact that we must change** as must the disciples and commit themselves (and ourselves) to the hard priorities of the Kingdom of God. Self-denial from the world’s priorities of power and prestige for us is painful. In His humanity, it was excruciatingly difficult for Jesus too: He sweated blood. The difference for Him was that he was not sweating and fearing turning away from sin which He did not have, but embracing total obedience in His humanity to his heavenly Father. He became **sub-ordinate** in entering into fallen humanity so as to to **re-order** our humanity and **raise** us up. It was not taking the forbidden fruit of Eden, the easy way out that was the problem of the Fall, that was the acting and manifest symptom of an inner evil: Fallen, dis-ordered free will. It was the decision of a fallen will of Adam and Eve to prefer the false, selfish self and not trust in God’s promises of the Tree of Knowledge. Christ’s will in His own humanity is challenged to a metanoia (a changed, reorientation) to His own Father for our sakes. He looks towards the betrayal of the worldly in us, the world’s degenerates and says “I will be obedient to my Father right into Jerusalem” and I shall in my perfect will save the disciples and us.

The even better Good News is that Jesus by His perfect commitment to His Heavenly Father has re-opened our way to the Father and redeemed the debt of our fallen free will. All we have to do and the Apostles have to do is make the commitment to change for the better! Jesus has made the change on our behalf in his Incarnation, Passion, Death and Resurrection. No one else could. Man is redeemed by the Perfect Man because He has the Perfect will of Divinity in His unblemished soul. Our Redemption is in fact **assured** in the Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane because it is **there** that Jesus makes the **perfect commitment** of a truly free, though painfully tested, pure will to conform his human will to God’s will. That is to re-integrate for us--and as us, Him being us--our fallen wills. (Otherwise He would simply have returned in His will to the temptation of the devil in the wilderness at the beginning of His Messianic mission in the Gospels.) After the perfect free will of accepting God’s will, the “handing over to the power of men” to “suffer grievously and be put to death” the rest is merely executory on fallen humanity’s part and adjectival on Jesus’ part. He says to the representative of fallen will and hands of men, Judas “Do what you have come to do”. At the end Jesus says “It is accomplished” before yielding up His Spirit.

Today (for the second time in Luke’s Gospel) Jesus shares with the disciples and us His perfect **intellectual** knowledge that he is to suffer for their and our Redemption. Later His **will** and **emotions** will be tested in the Agony in Gethsemane. There He redeems and

perfects our own emotions and will to True Freedom. He becomes the first human anew with the freedom of the children of God, by being a child for us of His Father. That is true even whilst undergoing terrible testing of will and emotions to the point of sweating blood. True freedom, “the forgiveness of our sins” as St. Paul tells us (Col 1:14; Eph 1:7) is worth that. Jesus will continue over the next 10 chapters to seek to integrate into virtue the intellect, will and emotions of the Apostles. The apprenticeship is three years, even with God their teacher. The fallen soul of humanity can learn because Jesus has come to save the soul in us. The intellect of the soul is called conscience. There, ordered by Christ they and we learn good from bad and right from wrong judgement according to the Grace of the Holy Spirit—so much as we take the time and commitment to learn.

In faith God is a parent too leading us fallen myopic children to commitment and vision. Christ’s priority is our redemption. The disciples do not want to share that commitment and become Apostles: “sent” on co-Mission. How terrible if a child refuses to journey with a parent who loves them into being and existence itself! Any worthwhile journey from riding a bicycle, saving for a house or having the child called out of themselves to make small and large commitments applies also to us as children of a loving Heavenly Father. Our priorities are not to be the easy way out. Our will, intellect and emotions are redeemed. Our Good News in Jesus is to accept to change, to commit as He did to His Father and to us simultaneously in His Incarnation, coming to earth. It is **not** “We’ll begin going to Mass when we have paid off our house; we are busy now”. We are to start living our faith life now. Jesus is the Eternal Word on earth. For God there is only now, this moment. Jesus never said “I will save them when I am comfortable on this earth”. We will never be comfortable under the hands of fallen humanity. Our will remains fallen if we do not strive for the vision of Heaven that Jesus gives us. We just have to look over the fence of earthly comfort. There is no comfort in refusing to learn to ride, study, save, have delayed gratification, or to put off changing for the better. Jesus is the Best who calls us out of our lesser selves like a parent to a child. Let us not cripple our own faith or that of our children.

Christ is the new us, what we and the Apostles are called to be and become with a singular commitment of the will. We cannot will or do it ourselves, alone. Like Christ we need Divine intervention. Jesus had it in Him: and angels ministered to Him. We have the intervention given to us in the Grace of the Holy Spirit. This is the hand of God offered to us and into which we seek deliverance in this world. Let us commit and prioritise: “Lord, Thy will be done in my will, as it is in heaven, so here on earth with me”. This way we have blessedness even now and the earth is a richer place of meaning destined for heaven.

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