

Team Jesus

In the Gospel this weekend we are asked to consider if we are authentically, truly following Jesus.

Are we really on Jesus' team –accepting what is given to us, loving like Jesus did it without seeking reward? Or do we say, yes, we follow you – but what do we get in return for loving others? What about me? What about us?

Each Sunday by coming and celebrating the Eucharist we state that we want to become like Christ. As the Gospel repeatedly tells us if we follow him in his saving love for the world then, like him, we must confront injustice, defend the rights of the poor and the oppressed to dignity, give and forgive, heal and reconcile. By saying this, we are clearly not looking for ***“a Smooth ride through life.”***

Team up with Jesus' doesn't mean to get honours, titles and status rather it is marked by a spirit of service and humility. Jesus sums it up this way: Those recognized as leaders use their power to *«lord it over the people»*, and the great ones do nothing but *«make their authority felt»* over their subjects. Jesus couldn't be more emphatic: ***«Among you, none of that». This is not to happen among you.***

He doesn't want to see anything like that among his own: *«Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave of all»*. The disciples at that moment didn't understand him at all; not him not his reign.

In his community there's no place for power that oppresses, only for service that helps. Jesus doesn't want leaders seated on his right and left, but servants like him who give their lives for the rest.

Jesus makes clear that his Church isn't built on the imposition of those from above, but on the service of those who are seated below. No hierarchy of any kind based on honour or domination fits in his mind... nor methods and strategies of power. It is a service that builds up Jesus' Church. He sees this as so important that he offers himself as an example: he hasn't come to the world to lord it over others, but ***«to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many»***. Jesus doesn't want triumphalism in the Church, but real service ... to do one's utmost for the weakest and for those most in need.

This message isn't just for the leaders. Whatever our tasks and responsibilities, we all need to commit ourselves more to the service of his project. In the Church we do need faithful followers of Jesus; those

who want to be important need to get to work and collaborate.

Today between 1:00 and 3:00 pm we have the plenary consultation at MPA, at Saint Patrick's school, where you can have your saying about ***What is God asking of you... of us in Australia at this time...*** and in this journey there is no place for positions of honour, rather It is a time for ***listening with the ear of the heart***, as St Benedict said so many centuries ago.

What does it mean to be on "Team Jesus"? let's stop and think about this...

In my day to day work – are all my actions reflective of Jesus' love and compassion for others? Or am I motivated by my own needs and what the world tells me is important?

In my family – is Jesus really a focus? Do I encourage my family to walk in the footsteps of Jesus? Or is it just something we say we do, but aren't serious about it?

Coming to Mass – do I use this as an opportunity to grow in faith and see how I can grow in my desire to be like Jesus each day – or is it an obligation that I must fulfil?

How can I grow to reflect the love of Jesus in our world?
How can I be on Team Jesus?

Like James and John and the other disciples, like Mother Teresa, Saint Oscar Romero and many others, we are all called to be missionaries, most of us right where we are. To be good missionaries we have to hear Jesus' words about ***where real greatness lies***; otherwise we'll be totally out of the track, lost. It is a message that is not always easy to hear in a society like ours.

We are call To team up with Jesus, because we cannot live our Christian faith fully unless we are sharing it and witnessing to it in our daily lives.