

Small Groups

Discussion Questions for August 23, 2015 – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

The second reading is one of those that can cause frustration and distress based on an inaccurate reading of the message. The subordination of a wife is not one of abject subservience; it is a virtue of love and sacrifice. In the same way, the love being asked of a husband is not simply a peck on the cheek, it is a total abandonment of his own life at the service of his spouse. It is not about dominance and power. We love and grow by offering our lives to Christ in the service of those we live with and love. It is a total giving, just as Christ's love was total and free. God asks us to follow Christ. To do that, we must live as Christ. To live as Christ means to think of others, even at the potential loss of ourselves. He gave Himself completely for the sole reason that he loved us each individually and infinitely. He asks nothing less of us.

Discussion Questions

1. The Daily Specials this weekend were Subordination, Love and Respect. Take each one and tell about something that happened this week that demonstrated these.
2. Read the second reading again out loud and then discuss how you think you could be the kind of person St. Paul is asking – these can apply to us in any state of life, whether married, single, widowed or divorced.
3. Jesus doesn't run after the disciples who left him over his statement that they must eat his flesh and drink his blood. He let them leave. But Peter said he had the words of eternal life. What do you think Peter meant by his statement?
4. Can you think of a time this past week that you had the opportunity to help someone and you didn't? If you had to do it over again, what would you do?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus! You, Who in the most bitter moments of Your passion showed an ardent thirst for souls, grant that we may share in this thirst. Give us the light to grow in the knowledge of Your word and grant us strength so that, by collaborating in preaching this word at every moment of our lives, we may bring to You, through Your holy Church, and the intercession of Your holy Mother, innumerable souls who live far from the truth. Grant this so that with You, through You and in You, they may be reconciled to the Eternal Father, in union with whom, together with the Holy Spirit, You live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves..” (Jas 1:17-18; 21b-22, 27)