

Sunday Readings Reflections of 8/23/15

Reading 1 Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Parents sometimes use "reverse psychology" to encourage their children to make the right choices. That is what Joshua, the new leader of the Israelites, does in this reading. He wants them to make a firm commitment to serve God alone. So he tells them that they can choose to serve other gods. However, he insists that he and his family will remain faithful to the one God who brought the Israelites out of slavery.

By reminding the people of all God has done for them, Joshua guides the tribes of Israel to be faithful to the Lord. When we remember all that God has done for us, we too renew our faith in the God who saves us.

Reading 2 Ephesians 5:21-32

If Saint Paul had any idea how much confusion his letter to the Ephesians might cause centuries after it was composed, he might have re-written it. His primary message is that the relationship between Christ and his Church is like a human marriage. Husbands and wives are "made into one," just as Christ and his Church are one body. Marriage partners are called by God to show mutual love, respect and care. In doing so, they reflect the love Jesus has for all who follow him.

When husbands and wives choose to make sacrifices for each other and their children out of love, they are acting like Jesus who sacrificed himself out of love for his Church.

Gospel John 6:60-69

What a sad day it would be if some of our friends suddenly turned against us because of our religious beliefs. Today's gospel story relates how many of Jesus' disciples left him. They could not accept his teaching that he himself was the Bread of Life. They could not believe that his Body and Blood were the source of eternal life. So they turned their backs on him and returned to their old way of life.

However, when Jesus asked the Twelve if they too would abandon him, Peter replied, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." We too at times may find some of Jesus' teachings difficult. When that happens, we speak to him honestly in prayer and seek his help.

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