

## **Sunday Readings Reflections of 9/13/15**

### **Reading 1 Isaiah 50:4-9a**

In this reading, the prophet describes the servant of God who will lead Israel back to God. The servant will suffer, but God will uphold him. In New Testament, these words take on new meaning for us. Jesus was the suffering servant in Isaiah, the Messiah who was destined to suffer and so enter into his glory.

As followers of Jesus, we must follow him in his mission and in his trials and suffering. We may not be asked to die for our faith, but we will be asked to live our faith with courage and full faithfulness.

### **Reading 2 James 2:14-18**

In this reading the difference between merely talking about faith and practicing it is stressed. What good are kindly wishes to those who need clothing and food for today? Faith without good works is dead.

Let us be concerned for the people around us who are in need. Good intentions are not enough. The love of Christ urges us to act for justice and peace for all God's people.

### **Gospel Mark 8:27-35**

In this reading, Jesus teaches his disciples what they have gradually come to discover: He is indeed the Messiah. But he is a Messiah who must suffer and die.

Peter found this hard to accept. For Peter, the Messiah would not, could not, suffer. Judging by human standards, not God's, Peter failed to accept God's will for the Messiah. Jesus assured all his disciples that they, too, must suffer: deny themselves, take up the cross, and follow him.