

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
7/9/2023

## PRAISE, REVELATION AND INVITATION

Aside from being a brilliant quarterback, what makes Patrick Mahomes so popular?

This brief gospel passage divides into three parts: Praise, revelation and invitation. Interestingly enough, the **praise** comes in a down moment. Jesus has just been condemning the cities where he worked his miracles but people still didn't believe in him. And yet, despite this down moment, Jesus turns and offers praise and thanksgiving. He gives thanks, praising God his Father for "these things" hidden from the learned which have been revealed to the childlike. What are, "these things"?

That's where the **revelation** comes into play. These things include who Jesus is and who he is not. Jesus isn't just a nice guy, a teacher with some nice ideas or even a miracle worker. Jesus is the Son of the Father or as we profess every Sunday, *the only begotten Son of God*. And shortly after that we say, *God from God, light from light, true God from true God*. Jesus makes the invisible God visible. Jesus is the human face of God. Jesus is the sacrament who makes God present.

Jesus offers an insight into the inner life of God, to the relationship he shared with the Father and which we will learn includes the Holy Spirit, revealing God as the Blessed Trinity, Three in One and One in Three. What has been hidden, has now been revealed and the ones who accept it are those who accept it in faith, the little ones. Jesus is the point of access to the Father.

First there's praise, next there's revelation and then finally there comes **invitation**. God doesn't become human in the person of Jesus for the heck of it. Jesus comes to save us, to unite us to God and to allow us to become adopted sons and daughters of God. He invites those who labor and are burdened to find rest in him. He invites us to learn. Who is our teacher? Jesus. What are we to learn? Jesus. In Jesus the teacher and subject are the same. The condition for the rest he offers is to learn from him.

Just last week, Jesus spoke to us about picking up our cross and following him and now he talks about an easy yoke and light burden. Is following Jesus heavy or light? The answer is yes.

The life of discipleship for anyone who has seriously tried to live it is hard. It means going against the disposition of original sin. At times it means facing disappointment, ridicule, persecution and even martyrdom for the sake of Christ.

And yet it's easy, because it's the way we grow in our humanity, in holiness. Sin dehumanizes us. To grow in true holiness makes us more human, not less human. It can be easy or at least easier, because it's rooted in love and can bring joy. It can be easy or at least easier, because in the person of Jesus, God lives life with us.

Sometimes the heaviness of what we bear we put on ourselves. This can include things like greed, pride, self-seeking and so many other things that can weigh us down not because God lays them on our shoulders but because we put them there ourselves. The ultimate rest Jesus offers us isn't in this life but as we say when praying for the dead, eternal rest.

Through Jesus, we enter into the Kingdom of God and Jesus is meek and humble of heart. That means that humility is the door through which we enter his Kingdom. Humility doesn't mean putting ourselves down but being grounded in the truth of who God is, who we are and who we are in relationship to God. Humility recognizes our need for God and that is something freeing. It means that some things are up to God and not to us. Humility is where we begin to grow in discipleship, where we begin to grow in prayer, where we begin to grow in holiness.

Humility is freeing while pride is a high maintenance item. Pride consumes our attention and emotional energy. It forces us not only to look constantly at ourselves but at others and compare ourselves to them. If you always worry about whether or not you'll be named employee of the month, that will enchain you. If you're humble and don't care, that will be freeing.

Humility isn't only freeing, it's attractive. Aside from being a brilliant quarterback, one reason Patrick Mahomes is so popular is because he carries himself with a degree of humility. To remain rooted in truth, rooted in humility is a shield.

It shields us from pride and other sins and turns back attacks of the enemy. Our own St. Therese said, *Humility puts hell into a rage.*

What Jesus does in today's gospel he does at this and every celebration of the Eucharist. As Jesus is a sacrament making God present, each of the seven sacraments and in a special way the Eucharist, makes Jesus present. Here we join him in **praise** to the Father for the relationship of the Father and the Son that has been **revealed** to us and here Jesus not only invites us to **learn** from him in his humility of heart but continues to truly give himself to us in his word under the form of bread and wine.

From Jesus, may we learn to praise God even in disappointment; may we accept the mystery of who he is and may we learn from him who is both the teacher and the subject. Through the freeing door that comes with humility of heart, with lives of intentional faith, may we accept the call from Jesus, Son of the Father, into the Kingdom to which he invites us.