

5th Sunday of Lent Reflection
Sunday, March 18, 2018

In the first reading, Jesus speaks of His new covenant. This new covenant will be completely different from the one he made with the Israelites to lead them out of Egypt. For the Israelites broke that covenant and God had to show himself as their Lord. He discusses how the least to greatest shall know him and our sins will be forgiven. How true this new covenant came to be. In dying and rising, Jesus opened the gates of Heaven and forgave our sins. Now, over 2000 years later, we still recognize God's sacrifice of His son for us. Like the Israelites, we too are sinners. But how blessed we are that through this new covenant, we are forgiven. As the end of Lent draws near, the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ is quickly approaching. What better time to confess our sins and truly appreciate Jesus' dying on the cross for us.

In today's second reading, we catch a glimpse of Jesus' humanity. He prayed with loud cries and tears to God who could save him from death. But ultimately, He knew that this was part of God's plan and death was inevitable. This reading can hold deep meaning to us because I believe it's very pertinent. Sometimes in life, difficult things are thrown at us that we can't understand. We pray and pray for a resolution or an answer, but sometimes don't receive the answer we want. In these times of life, we need to understand that God has a plan. Even though you may not be able to understand its purpose at the time, it's important to trust in God's plan. Down the road, you may look back and understand the meaning of that event in your life. Difficult times can help bring you closer to God and enhance the trust in your faith. The quote "Let not my will but yours be done" helps us to understand that there's a greater plan. Though Jesus suffered tremendously before his crucifixion as He understood what was to come, the result was new life for the whole world. We need to remember in the trials of our life, to trust in God and look for the good in every situation.

In the Gospel reading, we further see Jesus' purpose of this life and his acceptance of the death He will experience. He discusses that now is the time of judgement for this world and that God will honor whoever serves Him. It's so easy in our daily lives to get caught up in this world. However, our minds should be focused on the world to come. We need to take time to know, love and serve God. Is He a part of your daily life? Serving God is a conscious effort to live out His commandments every day. And when we fail, Jesus died to forgive our sins. Even after Lent is over, let's remember why we're here. What we've tried to do in these 6 weeks of lent to better ourselves, let's continue even after Easter is over. Seek to serve God every day.

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