

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

September 3, 2023 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 16:21-27

Setting Your Mind on God

Jesus tells his disciples he will have to go to Jerusalem to suffer and die. Peter takes Jesus aside and tells him he doesn't have to go through with it. Jesus rebukes him.

God's ways are not always the accepted way of the culture in which we live. Probably our most difficult job as Catholic parents is to instill in our children a value system based on the Gospels rather than the society that surrounds them.

Our children are bombarded constantly with the values of a secular society that prizes possessions and position over just about everything else. The commercial world of social media, magazines, and Amazon teaches them to want more and more, while the competitive worlds of academics and athletic teach them the importance of being number one. We adults can get trapped on this treadmill ourselves wanting a bigger and better car or home, the newest technological gadgets, or pushing ourselves to be the top salesperson or youngest VP in the company.

Jesus tells us to think as God thinks and to see things from God's perspective, not our own. God sees things outside of time. He sees that the treadmill of wanting more and more only gets us to the nowhere of never having enough. God sees globally: for every winner there are thousands of losers, for every rich person there are millions of poor.

We have to help our children trust in God's promise to provide all that they need. We have to help them see that God has a vested interest in each of them becoming their own personal best, not "better than" anyone else. This is definitely one of those lessons our children need to see us witness. It can't become just another sermon. We lose all credibility if we preach it without living it ourselves.

FAMILY RESPONSE

As a family, decide in what areas you have plenty. Choose a charity that can benefit from your bounty.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Are there areas in your life where you are trapped on the treadmill of having to have more and more? How can you begin to change the situation? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?