

Hardships

5th week of Easter Homily by Dcn. Dave

“It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God” This line from our first reading on Tuesday reminds us, that Christ told the disciples of His suffering before He can go to be with the father. And yet they still do not come to terms with all that He told them until after the resurrection, and received the, Holy Spirit. Soon we will celebrate Pentecost in the church and reminded of the disciples and their preparation for their mission to bring the good news to the people.

But, many would chastise them, stone them, speak ill of them, put, them down, for what they believed, even to the point of death. How many of us, have been in similar situations, speaking out for something we believed in, maybe even to defend our faith. Because, in spite of all the disciples endured, they knew that they would be able to persevere in their faith, and stand up to opposition. And, whether they believed it or not, their suffering would be an imitation of the suffering, Christ endured, as He hung upon the cross. This image should bring to us, hope when we are facing our own trials, because Christ, turned suffering into hope.

I am always taken aback, when I find myself in a difficult situation, thinking that I must go it alone, even though I know in my heart, I should be turning to Christ in my time of trial. Who better to turn to than the one who suffered the greatest, for my, sins, forgiving me in the process? And, yet time and time again, I would, go it alone. This was especially true in my younger days, when, on more than one occasion, I turned away from God. Thankfully, I am coming to understand in my later years, things always turned out much worse, than if I had listened to God’s voice in the first place.

You see, on more than one occasion I ended up in the back seat of a police car, father in tow, for doing something irresponsible. You might ask, did I learn anything from these experiences? For sure, lie, at all costs...of course, I’m kidding. But, I will say that, even though I have not yet learned everything I need to, at this point in my life, I am learning, that, trusting in God, more than myself, is the better way to go. Of course, mistakes continue to occur, but, today they are done in the knowledge that I am forgiven, that with the Holy Spirit, I will persevere, in my faith, like the disciples.

So, take a minute this week, looking at some of things you might have considered doing maybe yesterday, asking yourself, what, was the outcome and how it would have been better with your heavenly, father, guiding you!