

32C 2022

The Sadducees whom we meet in today's gospel – the ones who come to Jesus with a question about seven brothers and their common widow - were not really looking for an answer to their question. They were not even interested in a discussion or a debate with Jesus. Their goals were darker and more sinister. They were hoping to make Jesus, at the very least, look stupid in front of the people. The best-case scenario would be to trick him into speaking some sort of blasphemy or heresy so they would have reason to put him to death.

This was not the first time the Sadducees tried this. You think they would have learned their lesson. They had failed over and over again. Every time they were the ones who ended up looking foolish, walking away with their tails between their legs, but today – desperate as Jesus was approaching Jerusalem - they decided to go for broke and give it one last try.

Even though their intentions were malicious, even though their goals were evil, I kind of feel sorry for the Sadducees. I certainly feel sad for them.

This group of unhappy men were unable to open their minds and souls to all the beauty that God had in store for them. They were held captive – prisoners of their own low expectations. They were so bound and limited by their own miserable lives that they couldn't even begin to hope for anything more.

Today Jesus offers them a vision of infinite joy, an insight into the unimaginable bliss of the kingdom – the kingdom that God wanted them to inherit - but they were not capable of seeing it, they couldn't touch it. They went away just as sad, blind, and bitter as they were before they saw

Jesus, before they spoke with him, before they heard the sound of his voice.

We need to pray earnestly that God preserves us from the blindness of the Sadducees. And, to be honest with you, I find that darkness deepening around us. We seem to be growing blinder to the presence of the Lord in one another and instead can see only gender, or orientation, or color, or political beliefs. I don't think we will ever be on the same page and that is ok, but we should never be on pages so far apart that we can make jokes when an elderly man is attacked with a hammer or when a child of God is hurt or hated because of the way they look or who they are.

Today we pray for a vision that is not self-limiting like that of the Sadducees . We ask that we can place our hope in the joy that the Lord has in store for us. Because I am convinced. I believe with all my heart that if we can glimpse it even for a second, we will do all that we can to go there and – even more than that – all that we can to make sure that everyone goes with us.