

For all of us there come times when we are both afraid to confront the truth and afraid to be confronted by it. The original disciples of Jesus were no different. They didn't like what they were hearing Jesus say about his approaching passion. So they were afraid to question him, most probably, because they were afraid of what that would mean for them. For indeed, they showed very quickly after Jesus prophesied openly of his coming trial, that their main concern was about their position and ranking as disciples. Then when Jesus questioned them about their concerns, they were afraid and embarrassed to reveal how truly mundane and banal they were.

Let us honestly reflect on how we too can be afraid to ask and even more afraid to be asked.

God bless and keep you all,
Fr. John Linden
Parochial Vicar

The Gospel
Mk 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him. They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in the their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

Reflection:

We, like the first disciples, can be afraid to speak with God about our deepest concerns and our deepest fears because we are more afraid of the answers he may give. So we run

to our friends, to the media, to Oprah and to methods of self-help, but not to God. We can be afraid that God will ask too much of us, while others (in the same position as ourselves) will understand better and demand less. Then we become ashamed that we have done this and have not turned to God so we become afraid to tell him that as well.

There is no one in this world that knows our needs and knows the solutions to them more than the one who created the world and us. Yet, we know enough to see that the way he calls us to take can sometimes seem rather daunting. It is true that Jesus may seem to demand too much from his followers, but it is equally true that what he promises to those followers is much more than they could ever deserve on their own. And what is most comforting is that Jesus already knows our fears and our mundane concerns better than anyone and yet still makes his promises to us – to you and me! He is the Truth, and he doesn't will to confront us as much as he wills to comfort us.