

# 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Homily: Fr. Shijo George

Pastor – Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Victoria, BC, Canada

---

A peaceful and satisfied mind is a precious gift, whereas an agitated, dissatisfied, and greedy mind is troublesome.

Peace and satisfaction are two sides of a coin. In the Gospel according to John, chapter 14, verse 27, we hear this from Jesus: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” Peace is the great gift from Jesus to all his followers who are ready to live according to his words. A dissatisfied mind never works for God, but it works only to attain the selfish motives of that person.

When the human heart feels dissatisfaction and selfishness, he or she loses their peace of mind. Once we are self-content, attained through our good deeds, we feel true happiness, and our life is blessed.

In today’s readings, we see how dissatisfied people can cause chaos; trouble in one’s own life, and in others’. The First Reading depicts those people: the godless who were not following the Laws of Yahweh. They even exchanged the teachings of the Torah for the new gentile concepts that were so popular in Hellenistic Alexandria. And they, out of their ill-will, attacked those following the Commandments of Yahweh. We understand that animosity, hostility, and enmity always comes from a selfish and dissatisfied mind that has no peace.

And in today’s Gospel passage, while their Master was speaking of his passion, death, and resurrection, the disciples failed to understand him. Instead, we see

them engaged in a heated debate: the question of “who was the greatest?” Too busy engaged in their own self-importance to notice what Jesus was saying about his passion and death in excruciating pain. It was their dissatisfied and agitated minds that hindered them from understanding the deep feelings of their Master.

It may even happen in our Christian life too. When we are selfish and have no inner peace, we will never understand Jesus and his teachings. If there is no peace within us, we will fail to listen to, and understand our broken-hearted brothers and sisters; just as the disciples failed to recognize the anguish of Jesus.

St. James helps us to know how, from a dissatisfied person who follows the “wisdom from below”, comes envy, selfish ambition, disorder, and wickedness of every kind. It brings with it various conflicts and disputes in our hearts and in our relationships. He says that it arises from one’s own selfish cravings! And he wishes that all his listeners should be filled with, and to follow, “the wisdom from above” that is pure, peaceable and gentle; willing to yield, is full of mercy, bears good fruits, and is impartial.

In Matthew chapter 5, verse 9 we read: “Blessed are the peacemakers.”

Let us ask God for the true satisfaction of mind, filled with the inner peace, humility and joy that Jesus offers. St. Theresa of Avila said: “The closer one approaches to God, the simpler one becomes.” Let us be closer to our God, and God will help us to practice his teachings, filled with the true happiness and the satisfaction that Jesus gives: which is ultimately, Inner Peace.

---