

## Selective Hearing

21<sup>st</sup> Week of Ordinary Time- August 26,2018 – John 6: 60-69

We all suffer from some form of selective hearing. We've all heard that claim from spouses, children, parents, co-workers or the general public who say... "You aren't listening!" It's a normal human response to have a very selective set of ears. We hear what we want to hear. If we don't like what we hear we are very much like the disciples in the gospel today... **"Many of Jesus's disciples, who were listening said, 'This saying is hard; who can accept it?'"** Yes, we reject that which is hard to accept, especially the truth.

Jesus is very specific about his message, **"The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe."** In these past few weeks, the gospel of John has driven home the point that Jesus is the only true bread, the only true way to heaven. Jesus is saying loud and clear this week that he is the one sent from God to bring eternal salvation. He also asks us, **"Does this shock you?"** Can I believe in a God that loves us so much that he took on human form, lived a human life, and left us an ultimate sign of his Real Presence, his own Body and Blood? There are those who choose not to hear this message. Most of us fail in some way to live this message each day of our lives. We fail to be Jesus to others.

Our failure to respond to Jesus remains in the fact that there is still a severe imbalance between the rich and the poor. There are still the lingering issues of abortion, euthanasia, immigration, human trafficking and the fact that so many in the world do not have access to the basic human needs of clean water, affordable housing, adequate food, and clothing, all of which supports and sustain the basic dignity of the human person. I think Jesus says that if we aren't listening to cries of the poor, then we really aren't listening to him.

The gospel today says that, **"As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him."** Jesus confronts the Twelve, **"Do you also want to leave?"** My prayer this week is that we respond like Peter who says to the Lord, **"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."** Given this truth, our selective hearing might dissolve and the answers to so many of our world problems would lie in our positive response to Christ and those in most need of Jesus' saving mercy, realized through our work and devotion to change.

Blessings!

  
Sue Schettler