

Trinity News

Lent II Problems Becoming Solutions Mark 8:31-38

We observe in the passage from Mark's Gospel that Peter's fears about what might happen to Jesus get translated into negative responses. Fears beget negatives and negatives beget more fears. The *Shatan* brings nothing positive, but always looks for a negative result. For the *Shatan*, who is all shadow and anti-growth, more shadows are welcome. The *Shatan* "does not have in mind the things of God but the thoughts of men". Peter is not the *Shatan* himself, but in rebuking Jesus for predicting his death and resurrection, he takes his eyes off Jesus and falls into the trap of ignoring the Presence within him and in front of him of the Christ. Jesus may well be speaking directly to the *Shatan*, not to Peter, but for a moment in time the two are linked. Jesus made a prediction about himself that was hugely positive. But the *Shatan* wanted Peter to dwell on the human fear of the death of a friend rather than the glory of the resurrection. Resurrection is a nightmare for the *Shatan* because it overcomes the ultimate negative of death. What we contemplate with joy is disastrous news for the *Shatan*.

We are called to deny negative influences. We are called to take up our cross which means bearing the cost of discerning between good and evil every day of our life. We are called to offer everything that constitutes our life in the service of Christ and the Gospel. The "good news" of the Gospel draws us up from our own sufferings into the consolations of God. We are drawn up into the refining of our humanity in the Presence of God. **No evil can live on our pathway in the Presence of God. No problem is too great for those who place their trust in the discernment of God to solve it.** We lose ourselves in such deep trust and we are saved to live again both in this dimension and its merging at death into the dimension of Eternal Love and the total acceptance of our trust. We can give nothing its exchange for our soul as the Master of souls-nurture reminds us .

One day at Calvary Jesus the Messiah gave his life in exchange for all those who would ever love him. He lost out you humanly speaking, but he gained everything and passed it to us. We must never be ashamed to trust in the Eternal Intelligence within us and around us. When we do this, the *Selem*, the image of God in us, sparks into life and wonders of discernment follow. The unspeakable gets spoken, people are healed, and problems become solutions.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.
- Lenten Study, 7:30 p.m., Parish Office

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., Chapel

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19; Romans 7:13-25; John 2:13-22