

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 22, 2021

We are still in the Gospel of John. As of last week, we finished the “bread of Life” pericopes. But we tag on here: The previous lines were Jesus saying, “unless you eat my flesh... Drink my blood”. Remember those sayings? Well, many of the listeners balked at this and no longer believed in Jesus, consequently walked away. Hence, we have the first lines of today’s Gospel, challenging the disciples to stay, and continue to believe in Jesus as the Son of Man.

And so, in the last lines of today’s Gospel we have a wonderful statement by Simon Peter: “We have **come to believe...**” I think that is the crux of believing in Jesus. We don’t believe instantly, even the apostles / disciples were amazed at many of his words. Gradually they came to put their faith in him. So, we saw that many “walked away” at what they just heard, the faithful disciples waited. They stayed. They CAME to believe in him.

I think it is the same with us. When we discover a new relationship or friendship It takes time and practice to know that person, to COME to believe in their friendship or faithfulness. These are the ones who will always be there. In our relationships many will “walk away”. True faithfulness develops over time; we come to believe in each other.

On the other hand, we too must give Jesus/God time and presence to develop a relationship with us/you/me. God or Jesus will stay, will never walk away. But it takes time and a buildup of trust, just like many of your friends and relationships. The real challenge is: will we/you walk away?

Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

...Do you also want to leave?