"The world promises you comfort, but you were not made for comfort. You were made for greatness."

Pope Benedict XVI

SCRIPTURE *of the* DAY

Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18

Psalm 33: 2-3, 16-23

Ephesians 5: 21-32

John 6: 60-69

In whatever we do, we always leave a way out for ourselves. As soon as things become difficult; when we are ridiculed or rejected, we walk away.

In the time of Jesus, when they heard what he said about being the living bread, they found his language 'intolerable' and left him. They no longer cared that he could cure the sick, cast out devils and feed thousands. As soon as he challenged their faith and their ideas, they gave up on wanting him as their Messiah. Today, we find all manner of things 'intolerable': the length of the homilies, the outrageous behavior of church-goers, the 'antiquated' moral teachings, and many others. And like the disciples, we may decide that these things are unacceptable for us and choose to move away, searching for an environment that suits us.

However, even if Jesus' words were not popular with the crowd, that doesn't mean they weren't true. He knew and spoke the truth, no matter how 'intolerable' it was to those who listened. Although rejected, he was still the Messiah and he knew his mission clearly, loving and giving his life for us. Our limited experience and understanding of the world may lead us to find new things difficult to accept, but that is our call as disciples: to learn, discern and make holy the environment we find ourselves in so we may truly be servant leaders.

When the crowds that had followed him left, Jesus asked his closest disciples; "Will you also go away?" Today, we ask ourselves this same question: **will we also stop following his commands the moment we find them difficult to accept?** Or will we be among his closest disciples, who recognized that he is the only one who could offer them eternal life?

Together with Joshua and Simon Peter, let us say: "We will serve the Lord, for you alone have the words of eternal life"

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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

25 August 2024
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

newbec

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD:

CELEBRATING, LISTENING AND WALKING TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION (MATTHEW 5: 13-16).

MONTHLY FOCUS

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Persevering In Leadership

The first reading today describes Joshua gathering all the tribes of Israel and presenting them with a choice: who will they serve? The implication is clear: to serve the Lord is to commit your entire life to living in His presence, according to His ways. In this day and age, we are afraid to make such a commitment.

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