

October 4, 27th Sunday (A) Mt.21:33-43 Rejection

Rejection is something we often encounter in our journey through life. In a family, for example, we can often find a member or two, who are rejected by parents or siblings. Leaders, too, are often victims to rejection. In a multicultural society, people belonging to a minority group or class, often experience rejection.

As the gospel suggests, the history of Christianity is a history of rejection. If we look back to our history of salvation, God first sent prophets to be his servants in his vineyard. But they were killed by the so-called "tenants" of the Lord's vineyard. Later, God sent his only Son, thinking that the tenants may "respect my son." But again, Jesus was handed to the elders and chief priests, and was killed.

Although Christianity has been considered as one of the major religions in the world, the picture does not seem to appear good these days. Seemingly, we go back to the old weakness which we call rejection. In other words, the story of rejection happens or continues to our day. What shall we do with this phenomenon that we call rejection?

First, there has to be a renewed appreciation of Jesus Christ. Modernity, secularism, and materialism have been the causes of utter rejection of God. People are too confident that they can live all by themselves. Their drive toward independence and freedom causes them to distance or even to forget Christ in their lives. However, these are also a people who lack meaning in their lives.

In the face of adversity and failures, these are a people who easily “end” their lives because they no longer find meaning in life. Once we have Christ with us, we won’t be carried away during the times of difficulties and problems, because we will remain optimistic and hopeful.

Second, we must cherish the beauty of our faith. Some Catholics who distance themselves from the Church would blame the Church for being indifferent to them. Ironically, these were a people who did not live out their faith; people who did not actively practice their faith; people who did not participate in the Church’s activities. Actually, their indifference and inactivity resulted to lack of appreciation and knowledge of their faith.

So, dear brothers and sisters, when we celebrate the holy Eucharist today, let us examine ourselves and ask ourselves whether we are true followers of Jesus Christ and his teachings, and whether we are proud of our faith and our church, and do we really try to actively live out our faith, in our day to day lives. Amen.