



Reflection from Ben 8/30/2020

In last weekend's Gospel reading, Jesus declared that Peter was the "rock" upon which he would build his Church. Today's Gospel reading immediately follows that statement. Jesus makes the shocking announcement that he is going to suffer greatly and be killed – predicting his passion and death. Peter, however, takes the Lord aside and disagrees with him.

That's when Christ comes down hard on Peter calling him "Satan" and telling him that he is thinking like a pagan, not like a Christian. Only a true friend would do something like that. Only a true friend will tell you when you are wrong. A true friend's love will take that risk because true love will go after what is best for the beloved.

On the other hand, those who selfishly use other people instead of seeking their authentic good rarely tell them hard truths. It's too risky. Pointing out their failings may result in offense and rejection. But Jesus is a true friend! A friend who loves us so much that he risks everything including his life for us, his beloved.

In the second reading, Paul insists that we must conform to Christ. Conformity to Christ means, living like Christ. Living that way means taking the risk to call out our beloved when they do wrong.

As a true friend of this country, are we going to call out the many wrongs that have transpired the past few weeks? As true citizens of America, we need to call out the seven shots in the back of Jacob Blake. Our love for this country compels us to be the voice of the voiceless, to be hope for all those who are displaced and to be light through these dark times.

Blessings, Ben