

23rd August 2009,
21st Sunday of the Year (B)

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Joshua 34: 15-18.

The people return to God and promise to be faithful to him.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 21-32.

The unity of Jesus Christ and his Church is as close as that of a man and his wife.

Gospel: John 6: 60-69.

"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life".

Points for Reflection

1. In **today's Gospel**, we hear the disciples murmuring in protest. They are scandalized by Jesus' claim that he is the Bread of Life that came down from heaven. Though they hear his words and see the wonders he performs, they find it hard to believe. The evangelist John tells us that many break away from Jesus' company. And yet, when Jesus asks the Twelve, who are closest to his heart, if they, too, want to leave him, Peter staunchly proclaims: *"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"*.

Clearly, for Peter, Jesus is the promise of tomorrow. In the company of Jesus who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, Peter has no reason to be afraid of what the future will bring.

2. The Gospel challenges us to listen to Jesus whose word is a lamp for our feet, a light for our path (Ps 119: 105). He is our guide as we journey through life.

As Christians in this day and age of conflict and strife, we take a stand to accept Jesus and believe in him. We must be like Peter who courageously acknowledges Jesus as the source of life. Faced with the departure of his fellow disciples, Peter speaks up in faith, putting his trust in Jesus, his word and works.

By his glorious resurrection and ascension into heaven, Jesus assures us that the glory of the next life will be ours as well. We need not be afraid of the challenges we face today or to be uncertain about the future. If we are with Jesus, if we truly believe in him and follow him with all our heart, we need not ask: "Where are we going to?" or "To whom shall we go?" Jesus, the Bread of Life, the Word Eternal, the Way, the Truth, and the Life, is all we need.

---From "365 Days with the Lord 2006",
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (B).
St Paul's Philippines