

# Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

◆ **Second Reading:** *Hebrews 5:7-9*

◆ **Gospel:** *John 12:20-33*

Dying and rising!! What's all that about? Most likely Jesus was addressing his words to people who worked on the land when he said to them **UNLESS A WHEAT GRAIN FALLS ON THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS ONLY A SINGLE GRAIN, BUT IF IT DIES, IT YIELDS A RICH HARVEST .....**

I suppose farmers would have a better grasp on this particular point ;

Out on the land in the country, a kernel of wheat has to be buried in the ground before it rises again, producing a sheaf-of-wheat and many seeds ; Using this comparison Jesus was speaking prophetically about his on-coming arrest, trial, crucifixion, death and resurrection ; From his death there came forth new life, life in the Spirit ; This is an important aspect of the Christian life, this DYING to the self in order to be reborn in the Spirit, then on to Eternal Life.

What is this "DYING" about?, how about an example? PARENTS! Good parents are a great example of DYING, they have to DIE to a lot of their own self-interest(s) in order to give life to their children ;

For parents, having to take care of their child comes FIRST, they have to love, feed, clothe and educate that child ; that's how parents pass on life to their children, by leaving aside their own personal desires and other interesting things that'll have to wait until the kids are grown up ; Parenthood, as I observe, is this complete outpouring of so much love and attention, otherwise it won't bear fruit, best to speak to parents about the above mentioned, they would know much more than mere "observers" Parenthood is all or nothing....

So also in our following of Jesus the Saviour ; In the course of our journey thru' life you and I are bound to die to whatever obstacle that is blocking the way forward to eternal union with God ; what would some of those obstacles be?

pride, lust for power, selfishness, worldliness, an addiction, festering resentments etc., anything at all, in the course of our spiritual journey that is deviating us from a sincere continuous relationship (friendship) with God needs to be dealt with, we have to DIE to such obstacles..... how do you DIE to an attitude of indifference to the existence of God?

How do you die to racism? How do you die to self-seeking?, glory-hunting?, impurities? out-of-control-desires? love of money? snobbery? Etc....

On the theme of DYING-TO-THE-SELF in order to be a true friend of God, st.John the Baptist, having met the Christ Saviour, said **HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE ....**

Also st.Francis of Assissi(1181 – 1226) composed a great prayer about DYING and RISING again in the Spirit of the Living God

**O DIVINE MASTER, GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE ; TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND, TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE**

**FOR IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE RECEIVE, IT IS IN PARDONING THAT WE ARE PARDONED, AND IT IS IN DYING, THAT WE ARE BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE .....**

.....stay healthy.....be well.....PRAY for the suffering children of Yemen and northern Mozambique, crimes committed against children in to-day's world are AP-PALLING.....PRAY also for peace in MYANMAR(formerly Burma).....

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