

Time out! Time out!

When do we hear those words?

- **To Discipline a child**
- **Sports events: Basketball: when a team is not doing well**
- **When we ask someone to look deep within themselves, reexamine what is going on, change the direction of how things are going, and then reenter the activity with a renewed attitude.**

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus calling a Time Out!

- **The setting for today's gospel is the Last Supper. Things are not going well. The public life of Jesus is coming to a tragic end. His disciples are deeply troubled.**
- **In John's gospel, Jesus takes a long time out lasting four chapters. He takes a time out!... to reevaluate, reorient, redirect the hearts and minds of his disciples.**

(Pause)

And is that not what we do when we come together as followers of Jesus? We gather to take some time out of our hectic society and our busy, often troubled lives to reconsider at a deeper level what this great enterprise we call

- being a Christian,
- being a follower of Jesus,
- being a disciple is all about.

(Story of doctor at the hospital visiting a patient and giving the family a small glass vial of oil.)

- Time to consider things at a deeper level.
- Time to let the Lord enter the very fabric of what is happening in our lives.

And what does Jesus tell his disciples? Two things; First;

1. **“Do not let your hearts be troubled”; remove all fear. The most critical step in reorienting our scattered confusing lives.**
2. **In our confusion Jesus gives us direction for our lives: Thomas, “Master, we do not know the way.” Jesus: I am the way and the truth and the life.”**

The gospel challenges us to commit ourselves to Jesus, to commit to his way of life; to being a disciple.

Story of my father’s death. The bottom falling out; where is the secure foundation of my life? Time out!

Jesus says in those times of the bottom falling out, of the times when fear is overcoming us, when we do not know exactly which way to go, he says to us, “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

Philip then says, “ Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” “Philip, have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

Jesus is leading his disciples, (that includes you and me,) through this time out, to a deeper understanding of who he is so that we can have a deeper foundation on which to set our lives. All we need to do is to take repeated time outs, to ponder deeply this Jesus who is not simply a master, (the disciple still are calling Jesus, “master: but not Lord. We must declare Jesus the Lord of our lives, and then to follow his example of living, for he is the way the truth, and the life.

No other world religion but Christianity makes such an outrageous claim that their leader is the Son of God/ the very expression of God in human flesh/ that he has lived in our midst/ born the burden of our lives/ mercifully healed and forgiven us/ suffered died and rose to make a path before us. NO other religion is so bold to make such a claim, only followers of Jesus, the Christ.

And then in today's gospel Jesus says, "whoever believes in me will do the works I do and even greater!"

Our faith response during our time out is simply, " Christ, in me, arise! Christ, in me, arise! Christ in me arise! Take over my troubled spirit, remove my fears and anxieties, make me a disciple to witness to even greater things than you accomplished during your earthly life.

The world has witness greater actions among Christians than even Jesus performed:

- Hospitals**
- Education**
- Care for those in need (faith based response to crises)**

Pope Francis:

Change in attitude towards the press:

In all his years as Archbishop in Argentina he only gave five interviews to the press; very defensive and guarded.

Within the first two months of being pope, he have three major interviews, two of them with an atheist reporter. Open, candid, and very pastoral, expressing the mercy of God.

**How could Pope Francis make such a change of his attitude in life?
Only if he set aside his fears. Only if he truly trusted in the risen Lord.
Only if he rededicated himself through many time outs to ponder the
power of the risen lord and then say, Christ, in ME, arise!**

**Today as we gather in the midst of this Easter season, we too come
with our fears and misgivings about life, about God, and about being a
disciple of Christ. Jesus once again invites us to take a time out, to
realize at deeper level that anyone who lets go of our fears, opens
their hearts to the Lord and follows his way of living will do great
works, and be in total communion with God.**

Can we deal with the shortage of priests? No problem

**Can we deal with the shortage of religious men and women? No
problem**

Can we deal with the challenges in family life today? No problem.

Can we deal with a troubled city and world? No problem.

**If we simply hand our fears and anxieties over to the Lord and follow
him who is the way the truth and the life, everything else will be given
to us. We will be renewed.**

Jesus will not simply be master; he will be Lord of my life.

**Then we can see the Lord alive and well in his people: Christ, in me
ARISE!**