

INTRO – This is the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – only 10 left until Advent
So scriptures are getting more and more intense. Predictions of JC's death, texts about how we have to live our faith for it to be real. TIME TO GET SERIOUS.

- 1st reading comes from section of Isaiah called the Song of the Suffering Servant.
 - Describes characteristics of Messiah – His passion, beaten and spat upon BUT, no disgraced, He takes it
- Gospel JC asks who do you say I am – Peter says You are the Christ, but when JC says He must die Peter says GOD FORBID – Peter forgets Isaiah's prophecy
 - For JC to be the messiah he has to DO IT, which is what James is about
- James, the 2nd reading – James lays it right out there - faith without works is dead
 - Are you serious about your relationship with God? LUP

Isaiah – I said this is from the Song of the Suffering Servant. Despite personal insults, the servant retains His dignity, interior strength and absolute trust in God READ IT

- Clearly, some of this describes what JC goes through in His passion and death
 - JC IS the Suffering Servant – He fulfills IS.
 - He gave His back to those who beat Him
 - He did not shield His face from buffets and spitting
 - YET – He was not disgraced
- In NSJ we are imprisoned, treated badly, delayed court dates, denied bail, some abandoned by friends and family – What does Suffering Servant do?
 - Trusts in God (2nd ppg)
 - The Lord is my help, therefore I am not disgraced
 - He is near who upholds my right
 - The Lord God is my help, who will prove me wrong

Thus PS 116 “I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living” Confidence
READ IT

- Once again the Psalm is OUR psalm:
 - The Lord has heard my voice in supplication, He has inclined His ear to me (Know this!)
 - I fell into distress and sorrow, I called upon the name of the Lord
 - Gracious is the Lord, Our God is merciful
 - The Lord keeps the little ones, He keeps my feet from stumbling,
 - I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living

James is one of the earliest epistles (47-49AD)

- Church in Jerusalem had a problem
 - Incredible growth, there were Spiritual groupies – lack of depth
 - Fertile ground for misunderstanding and heresy
- James was dealing with a huge problem
 - Heresy - God's plan was going to play out SO DO WHATEVER
 - How we live **doesn't** matter. That is a LIE, it does matter. READ IT

Gospel JC asks an important question for us in NSJ – who do YOU say I am?

Peter says “You are the Christ” - the anointed one – the Messiah – NOW WHAT

- Tom D and the traffic dummy - Because I'm a Christian
 - Have you ever had someone ask you WHY you do what you do and the answer is because I'm Xian?
 - If we say JC is the Christ, like Peter did, and say we are Xians, then JAMES has to become a reality – Faith shown by our works
 - So JC says Xians must deny themselves and follow Him. LIVE IT