

## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time C

- Its Father's Day – so I thought I would tell you this story
- (Deacon warning – don't freak visitors)
  - One day, after my first son was about 2, I came home
  - He was crawling, I got down on my hands and knees – He Laughs
  - Ginni "He loves it when you get down to his level"
  - BOING – It hit me like a ton of bricks - The incarnation – the birth of Jesus
  - "The Father coming down to the level of His children"
    - God became man
    - God comes to us, as one of us
    - Just like my son → No longer Daddy up there → Now Daddy, down here, with me
    - Daddy down here WITH EVERYONE
  - That's the point of GAL – Everyone is invited into the Church  
Male – Female Young – Old Free – Slave Jew – Greek  
God sent His Son for Everyone  
**And today He asks us a question**
  - Jesus asks "Who do you say that I am?"
  - Peter answers "You are the Messiah" & he was right on!  
*But 'Messiah', for Peter, meant Israel's Liberator from Romans*  
**NOT** one who suffers, rejected, and killed

That is why Jesus lays out the true task of Messiah & tells Peter Messiah  
To be rejected To die & To rise

That's how to read today's 1<sup>st</sup> reading:

"On that day mourning will be great" and a little later:

"On that day there shall be open to the house of David a fountain to purify sin and uncleanness"

It's the same day – what is Zach talking about? SALVATION

On that day Jesus is slain – that causes mourning in Israel

On that day Jesus becomes the fountain that purifies our sin.

LISTEN - Jesus is beaten and broken, suffers and dies.

God uses broken things

Broken soil → crop

Broken grain → bread

Broken bread → become Eucharist and gives us strength

I got down on my hands and knees to play with my son – and he loved it.

Jesus comes down to live with us and is broken – and we love it

BECAUSE by His being broken WE are made whole

WE are reconciled to our heavenly Father

WE mourn His death like Zechariah says

BUT because of His death we are washed clean in that fountain of baptism purifying our sin

Peter was right – Jesus is the Christ – but not just for Israel

Jesus says 'if anyone, ANYONE, wishes to follow me he must deny himself and take up his cross

Male – Female Free – Slave Jew – Greek

Anyone who wants to be a disciple must deny himself and embrace the cross

To serve one another – and to serve Christ – demands sacrifice –

Giving of self that results in the only true freedom that lasts