

Advent

A Simple Retreat with Fr Michael Winstanley SDB

Third Theme(Outline): **The Opposition and The Little People**

1. Controversies

- (2:1-12) The Paralytic - The issue of Forgiveness
- (2:15-17) Table Fellowship - The calling of Sinners
- (2:18-22) Fasting - The presence of the Bridegroom
- (2:23-28) The Cornfields - The issue of the Sabbath
- (3:1-6) The Withered Arm - The Giver of Life
- (3:22-30) Jesus is accused of being possessed by the devil
- (7:1-13) The issue of ritual washing, clean & unclean
- (8:11-13) The Demand for a Sign
- (11:27-31) The issue of Jesus' Authority
- (12:1-12) The Parable of the Tenants
- (12:13-17) The Payment of Tribute to Caesar
- (12:18-27) The Resurrection of the Dead
- (12:38-40) Condemnation of the Scribes
- (14:1-2) The Conspiracy against Jesus
- (14:43) The Instigation of the Arrest
- (14:55-64) The Hearing before the Sanhedrin
- (15:1-15) The Roman Trial & Barabbas
- (15:31-32) The Mockery of the Crucified Jesus

2. The Little People

Faith at the Service of Others

- (2:1-12) The Friends of the Paralysed Man
- (5:22-24;35-43) Jairus and his Daughter
- (7:24-30) The Syro-Phoenician Woman
- (8:22-26) The Friends of the first Blind Man

Faith which wins Healing

- (1:40-45) The Leper
- (5:25-34) The Woman with the Haemorrhage Problem
- (9:14-29) The Father of the Epileptic Boy
- (10:46-52) Blind Bartimaeus

Service & Generosity

- (1:29-31) Simon's Mother-in-Law
- (12:38-44) The Poor Widow
- (14:3-9) The Woman who Anoints Jesus
- (15:21-47) Friends during the Passion (Simon, Women, Joseph)

3. Death and Resurrection



When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

- 14:43-52: The betrayal and arrest of Jesus, and the flight of all the disciples
- 14:53-65: Jesus before the Council; condemned by all
- 14:66-72: The three denials by Peter (in crescendo)
- 15:1-15: Before Pilate; rejection by all the people, and condemnation
- 15:24-32: Mockery of Jesus by passers-by, scribes and the two condemned
- 15:33-41: Jesus' cry, and death; the torn temple curtain; the centurion's profession
- 16:1-8: Events at the tomb:
 - The women's journey
 - Angelic Easter proclamation: "He has been raised"
 - Message for Peter and disciples: "Go to Galilee..."
 - The fear and silence of the women

Conclusion

- Lessons of the Little People: faith, generosity, service
- Jesus' loneliness and self-giving to the end; his ongoing forgiveness and love
- Our own journey of discipleship continues...