

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

What Does God Think?

Today's readings have to do with God's frame of reference. They suggest that we act with God's will insofar as we can see it.

In the 1st reading we see Jeremiah courageously preaching God's word in the 7th and 6th century BC. He warned the kings and people of Judah to surrender and not resist. They reacted violently. He has become a laughingstock, and is tempted to abandon his prophetic career. But the word of God was "like a burning fire."

In the 2nd reading, Paul tells his readers to reflect God's mercy in their relationships with others. "Do not be conformed to this world." Their task is to discern God's will; to ask what God thinks.

In the Gospel, through direct revelation of the Father, Peter perceives that Jesus is the Messiah. But popular opinion of the day is that the Messiah would be a materialistic king. So, he can't understand the concept of a suffering Messiah. To him, suffering and death is not the way to glory. So, he suggests other things, as the devil did to Christ in the 3 temptations (Mt 4:1-11). Jesus tells him that his attitude is an obstacle to Him. Christ follows God's standards.

We seek advice from experts in their field. So, shouldn't we make God one of our circle of counselors?