



Homily for  
THE TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
18/19 June, 2016

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Deacon Jim's homily follows....

**GOSPEL** (Luke 9:18-24)

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself

and take up his cross daily and **FOLLOW ME**" ...Jesus said **FOLLOW ME**.

-following Jesus...

is not a onetime decision...as in the song "I have decided to follow Jesus."

it is a decision that needs to be renewed daily...and sometimes multiply times daily.

-I started trying to follow Jesus at about the age of seven...

not to get to heaven...I was learning about heaven and hell...

I just wanted to stay out of hell.

-the more I tried...the more I failed.

-my life was miserable for too many years.

-after years of this...I finally arrived at the conclusion,

“It is impossible, so why try”...

OR...“I’m missing something.”

As an adult I was fortunate to have some good Christian friends...willing to love me...

willing to share their faith with me...willing to help me understand what I was doing...

and what I need to do...what I needed to open myself too.

They told me I was trying to follow Jesus of my own power or strength...and that doesn't work.

They told me I needed God's help...and that's what makes following Jesus possible.

I am certain I that I was told this many times before in my Christian education.

But when these friends shared this with me it registered with me for the first time in my life.

That help from God is found in many places in scripture...one is in the first reading for today.

**READING 1** (Zechariah 12:10-11; 13:1)

“I will pour out a spirit of **GRACE.**”

-it is impossible for us to follow Jesus of our own power or strength.

-following Jesus is not easy...it is in fact it sometime mighty hard.

-knowing this the Lord gives us what is needed for us to do what He asks.

-it is possible for us to follow Jesus with God's grace.

-it is grace...the gift of the Holy Spirit that makes this wonderful following possible.

It is the suffering...death...and resurrection of Jesus that makes it all possible for us.

It is the suffering...death...and resurrection of Jesus that earned this grace for us.

I am being given the ticket for the train.

You are being given the ticket for the train.

We are being given the ticket for the train.

What does all this mean???

During WWII

A Dutch family...the ten Booms was arrested for hiding Jews.

Casper, the father, died shortly after arrest.

Two daughters...Corrie and Betsie were sent to the Ravensbruck concentration camp.

Betsie died at the camp...Corrie survived the war.

As Corrie and Betsie were being loaded onto the train (in a boxcar)

to be taken to the concentration camp Corrie was terrified.

Betsie said to Corrie, "Remember what papa always said, 'God doesn't give you

the ticket for the train until you board the train.'"

God gave, and continues to give us

"the ticket for the train as we boarded and continue to board the train"

What's the train?

It is the glory train...heading for the glory land...heading for heaven.

It is the train on which those who follow Jesus ride.

It is the train on which we ride in following Jesus.

What's the ticket?

The ticket is grace...the Holy Spirit...God's power and strength.

That ticket guarantees us a place on the train and a ride to the promised land...to heaven.

**SO**

"If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself

and take up his cross daily and **FOLLOW ME**"...Jesus said **FOLLOW ME.**

\*\*\*and for that journey of following Jesus...God tell us\*\*\*

"I will pour out a spirit of **GRACE.**"