

Reflections of the day (Saturday 28 March 2020)

For Jesus AUTHORITY was his AUTHENTICITY.

We often behave or act according to our authority or the position we hold in the community or in the church. All authority on earth is given by God. Therefore, our authority comes from our identity as the adopted children of God.

In today's gospel we see Jesus' public claim to be the promised *Messiah* and the "*Son of Man*" prophesied by Daniel and Subsequently the usual mixed reactions from his audience namely;

- a) **The people**: Jesus probably is the expected Messiah because of His authoritative teaching and authentic miracles
- b) **The Pharisees** : Could only see Jesus as a Galilean from Nazareth, and they argue from Scripture that the real Messiah must be born in David's family in Bethlehem.
- c) **The Temple guards**: Who have been sent to arrest Jesus, report that they have not arrested Jesus because, "*nobody ever spoke like Him.*" They are impressed by Jesus' wisdom and authoritative teaching.
- d) **Nicodemus**: the Sanhedrin member (*prominent member of the supreme council of the Jews*) : Defends Jesus, demanding that the Sanhedrin give Jesus a fair trial before they have Him punished for blasphemy on unfounded claims .

Life Messages:

- 1) **Trying to be popular** : Do we try too hard to become popular?
Trying to please others and afraid of negative comments?
Am I losing my neighbour for the sake of rules and regulations in the name of Church? and am I losing God for the sake of pleasing people?
- 2) **Authority is authenticity**: Why are we not effective or relevant in our society as the followers of Jesus? For Jesus, his Authority was his Authenticity and Identity as the Son of God. Similarly our authority comes from the authenticity and genuineness of the identity that we are the adopted children of God. When we realise this truth, the people and situations we meet in our daily life will experience the authority, authenticity by our presence and life style.

Father Joseph