

Take-Home 4: The Things of Men

Keep your Take-Home 1 sheet safe, with your written guess still folded. We will need it.

WHAT WE FOUND

“From that time”: the moment the confession was made, Jesus began teaching what the Christ came to do, and Matthew’s word is iron: he **MUST** go to Jerusalem and suffer. The cross is the plan, not the accident. And that solved last week’s cliffhanger: the title had to be completed by the cross before it could be preached. Peter, loving Jesus with the wrong dictionary, took Him aside: “God forbid, Lord!” and received the hardest words Jesus ever spoke to a friend: “Get behind me, Satan! ... you are not on the side of God, but of men” (Matthew 16:23). Five verses from rock to stumbling stone, and the difference was one move: confessing the right Christ, then trying to define Him ourselves. Yet “behind me” is not expulsion; behind Jesus is where a disciple walks. He ordered Peter out of the road and back into line.

We found the true definition where it had been waiting for seven centuries: Isaiah 53, the servant wounded for our transgressions, whose stripes heal us. The cross Peter forbade is the very thing that saves Peter. Then Jesus turned to all of us: deny yourself (dethrone yourself, not despise yourself) and take up your cross, and He was honest about the word’s weight. Six days later, the mountain: His face like the sun, Moses and Elijah, the cloud, and the Father’s voice answering Peter’s “God forbid” from the week before: “This is my beloved Son... listen to him.” Peter wanted to build booths and stay; the road still went down the mountain and on to Jerusalem. Glory is fuel for the road, not a substitute for it.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. Leo the Great / *Sermon 51 (on the Transfiguration)*

The great purpose of the Transfiguration was to remove the scandal of the cross from the disciples’ hearts: glory shown to three witnesses so that on the worst Friday in history they would carry a memory stronger than what their eyes were seeing.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. John Chrysostom / *Homilies on St. Matthew, Homily 54*

The blessing and the “Satan” came from the same Lord to the same man within moments: the confession was from the Father, the correction from the flesh. Affection for Christ, when it argues against His cross, stops being on God’s side without ever feeling like betrayal.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein) / *The Science of the Cross*

The cross is not an obstacle on the way to God but the way itself; we hand ourselves over to it not because suffering is good but because Love is hanging there. She learned that science personally and signed it in blood at Auschwitz.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Pray with Isaiah 53:3-6 once, slowly, replacing the pronouns: wounded for MY transgressions. Stay until it stops being information.
2. Choose one real act of self-denial this week, something with a cost, and offer it silently with the words "Behind you, Lord."
3. When something good and consoling happens this week, thank God, then ask: "What is this fuel FOR?"

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Matthew 16:24 (RSV2CE)

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read **John 6:51-71**. Watch what the crowd does at verse 66, and what Jesus does not do about it.

Catechism references from tonight: CCC 554-556, 618, 540.