

2nd SUNDAY of LENT ***YEAR B – February 25, 2018***



Remember when the family of Jesus came to get him because they thought he had a breakdown. They thought he was crazy. He was going around saying things like, love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you...and other things like that.

To people who lived by a law that required an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, that certainly was crazy. But Jesus stood his ground and got himself killed.

In the first reading today (Genesis 22:1-2, 9A, 10-13, 15-18), we hear about a man named Abraham who thought that God was calling him to kill his own son as a sacrifice to God...surely that is crazy. Why would God want a man to kill his own son. It seems crazy but the point of the whole story is that the God of Abraham did not want him to kill his son...

Human sacrifice was not unknown in the time of Abraham and Abraham wanted to give to his God, the best of his possessions, his son. If the pagans could do that, then so could he – so should he. But his God said, “do not kill your son...that is not what I require...”.

The second reading today (Romans 8:31B-34) leads some people to conclude that God required the death of his own son, Jesus, as expiation for our sins and without his bloody death on the cross, God would not be satisfied. Now that is really crazy.

God didn't send his son to us so that we could torture him on the cross. He sent his son to teach us what we needed to learn. He sent his son to teach us how to love. He sent his son to teach us that an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth is not his way. That is man's way. We were not ready to listen then and so we put him to death. I wonder if we're ready to listen now.

When Jesus took Peter and James and John up on a high mountain and was transfigured before them, Moses and Elijah appeared to them and they were talking to Jesus. They were talking about his death that was about to take place in a couple of days on Calvary. Soon Jesus would cross over to where Moses and Elijah already were, but he would come back again.

He entered the land of the living, but he came back to the land of the dying. He didn't come back to die again. He came back to teach us how to live while we are here on earth and showed us how to conquer death itself.

What have you learned from his teaching that you did not know when you were a child?



WE HAVE THE CAPACITY TO CHANGE!