

Second Hand Preacher

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 4, 2015

Hebrews 2:9-11

We shift our reading this week to the letter to the Hebrews. We will read this letter for a number of weeks. This letter is one that doesn't name an author. St. Paul was at first thought to have written this letter, as stylistically it has some similarities to other Pauline letters. There are also some dissimilarities and the dating of this letter is seen as being after St. Paul was martyred. It was most likely written from the school of St. Paul by one of the students of St. Paul, who was his disciple as well as being a disciple of our Lord.

Some scripture scholars look at this passage as an explanation of what happened to Jesus right after his death; that being lower than the angels referred to his descent into Hell. We pray this in the Apostles' Creed telling of the descent of Jesus. I believe that this was part of Jesus taking on our whole humanity. He was without sin, but was deeply connected to sin as he saved our souls from sin. The passage tells that he "might taste death for everyone." We should see the salvation that Jesus gives us as a precious gift. We have the power to accept or reject that gift.

This passage shares the Gospel theme of the importance of being like a child. This letter speaks of the many children being brought to glory. It seems that being childlike is part of the way to heaven. On October 1st, we celebrated the feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, better known as the Little Flower. Therese is a Doctor of the Church because of her little way. How we can be taken by God up the stairway to Heaven if we are as little children. We can practice the little way by doing small things for others and making small sacrifices for Jesus. St. Therese died at 24, and even though she was from a tiny cloister, she made her mark on the Catholic world.

We have a God that experienced our human condition. Jesus did all this so that he can call us all brothers and sisters. Having a broken condition makes us part of the human race. This makes us in need of a Savior and we have one in Jesus Christ.