

Second Hand Preacher

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2017

1 Peter 1:3-9

For the most part, leaders are not born, they are made. Learning to accept responsibility is often developed at an early age. This style of living can be reinforced by parents and other caring adults. Self-esteem needs to be high so that the leader is not easily rattled. Strong leadership seems to me to be the only way to success.

Someone forgot to tell St. Peter about how leaders are developed. Yes, he was nurtured and taught by Jesus, but he messed up a great deal. He seemed to always put his foot in his mouth, and when his mettle was tested, he denied our Lord three times. Does this seem like behavior fit to have the keys to the Kingdom? Should Peter have been the first pope? The short answer is yes. He is the model for all popes who followed him. Pope Francis didn't simply replace Pope Benedict. He was made a descendant of St. Peter. All popes are in the line and succession of St. Peter. The word of Peter in today's reading is bold. Blessings from God are declared. Jesus is the true power that Peter says can save our souls. Peter speaks of the trials he has that, when bonded to those of the cross, he can endure. Peter leads by example by following the King of Kings.

In this life, many are called to lead. In certain situations, all of us have the potential to lead. I believe the key to true leadership is the ability to follow. Like Peter, each of us will make mistakes. It is not how we start off, but how we end. How we follow the Christ is how our success is measured. Life isn't always what we expect. We will have crosses and the key is to learn from them so we can use them to bring people closer to Christ. St. Peter is a true example of this.