

Are We Committed to the Lord?

*Ephesians is from a patriarchal culture. While somewhat mutual, it “falls short” of the full dignity of all people we seek today (M.McGlone, *NCR*).

Intro. Most of us have heard the phrase, “All in.” It probably comes from card games when a player is so convinced she or he has the winning hand they bet all their chips and chance losing everything. The phrase can apply to anything in which a full commitment is made or asked for. In the recent Olympics, we saw a lot of athletes who have been *all in* for most of their lives. That is what it takes to compete at the highest levels. We saw one of the best have to admit for a short time she was *not* all in. We admire her for admitting it and finding that commitment again. It is difficult to maintain such commitments over a very long time. We know it’s

true in our relationships and our work. Disciples of the Lord are no different.

I. Before last Sunday’s celebration of the Assumption of Mary, the Lord had been speaking to people about food that doesn’t perish – something more than the bread that he miraculously multiplied for them. He spoke about himself as “the bread from heaven.” They said he couldn’t be from heaven because they knew his father and mother. They didn’t understand it when he said his body and blood gives *eternal* life. We hear the conclusion of the discussion in today’s gospel. Some people could not accept the Lord’s teaching; it was too hard and they quit following him. The Lord turned to his closest friends and asked if they were bailing out too. Peter came up big with his answer. The Israelites faced the same

decision as they finally entered the Promised Land:

whom will you serve: the Lord or other gods?

Do *we* want to leave the Lord sometimes? If we are honest, yes, many of us have had times of doubt or loss of faith in the Lord. If I lived in Haiti or served in Afghanistan or other difficult circumstances right here, I might be feeling that now. Some have left the Lord. We may look for someone or something else to follow. Some have found a good place to be.

Others of us have tried and have not found it elsewhere and returned to the Lord.

Concl. A hard truth is that we have to keep making a commitment in our relationships with each other. Why would it be any different with our relationship with the Lord? Sure there are hard times. I don't remember who came up the phrase, the "Greatest Generation." It is used to define people - some of

whom are still alive - who lived through some of the most soul-wrenching times in "recent" history like the Great Depression and the Second World War but didn't give up on life. Every generation, *every person* has difficulties to overcome. The twelve Apostles came to a crossroad in their relationship with Jesus and had to face **him** with the question, are you with me or not? As we deal with our own doubts and struggles, it is also *our* question. I pray after our searches elsewhere for eternal life, we can look the Lord in the eye and answer as Peter did, **"Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."** **We have to commit more than once to be "all in" with the Lord.**

Fr. Michael Pendergraft

August 22, 2021