

Reflection for September 5, 2021

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

from Jon Metz

There are many themes in today's readings. Jesus heals the deaf man. James reminds us to not judge a book by its cover. Isaiah tells us to not be afraid. We can glean much wisdom from these three readings, but I want to focus on one word: dignity. Dignity is an important word in our faith. We learn that we all have dignity because we were created in the image and likeness of God. On a fundamental level we know this, but we forget it. In today's culture and climate, we are so quick to judge the other. We spend a lot of time feeling judged by others. We focus on our differences and forget that we are ALL created in the image and likeness of God. There is common ground there.

In the eyes of God, we can never lose our dignity. Unfortunately, as human beings we can choose to ignore or disregard other's dignity. We forget that we belong to one another. We forget we are all children of God. So as the first reading reminds us "be not afraid" because you are created in the image of God. Try not to show partiality to one another as James reminds us, and remember to not neglect anyone especially based on a perceived disability, because as our Gospel reminds us we all have dignity in the eyes of God.

- Do you remember that you have dignity because you were created in the image of God?

- Have you chosen to disregard anyone's dignity? How can you make up for that?

- How can you remind another of their dignity when they have forgotten?