

5th Sunday of Lent
Cycle B
March 25, 2012 9:30 and 11am
Saint Margaret Parish, Bel Air

The Road Less Travelled

I began my freshman year of high school in September of 1960.

I remember that one of the first authors we studied in English class was our American poet Robert Frost. And I still vividly recall one of Frosts' most memorable poems – *The Road Less Travelled*.

I imagine many of us can recall this and I would like to read just a few verses of *The Road Less Travelled* this morning. Robert Frost writes this:

*“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
and sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
and looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;
Then took the other...*

*Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.*

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.”*

Our Choice of Roads

This simple poem by Robert Frost helps us to realize our choice today.

In today's gospel, Jesus invites us to follow him in taking the road less travelled. He describes this road in terms that seem contradictory, paradoxical, and even absurd.

It is a road of glory and honor that involves nitty-gritty service. It is a road where the grain must die to live on and produce wheat.

It is a road where those who love their life will lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will preserve it. This is the road less travelled that Jesus invites us to take.

Where Does This Road Take Us?

Concretely, for us, what might this mean?

For example, taking Jesus' road means that we sacrifice for one another.

We see this in parents who do not buy the more expensive car or pricey clothes so as to provide for their children and pay for their college education. We might see this sense of sacrifice in ourselves when we try to live more simply so that others in our world may simply live.

Taking Jesus' road means that we do what is difficult and not always take the easy way out.

We see this in children who take up for a classmate who is being bullied or befriend a classmate who just doesn't seem to fit in. We see this doing what is difficult and not taking the easy way out in ourselves when we remain silent or voice an alternative outlook when others are bashing those who are different.

Taking Jesus' road means that we view success in terms of giving.

We see this in the lawyer or doctor or therapist who gives pro bono service to someone who cannot afford to pay. We see this defining of success in terms of giving in ourselves when we are less concerned with acquiring more and more concerned for the common good of everyone.

And taking Jesus' road means that we try to build bridges.

We see this in the spouse who is willing to try marriage counseling even after experiencing years of insensitivity. We see this building bridges in ourselves when we reach out to that son or daughter or friend from whom we have been alienated for years.

Conclusion

Now it is probably true that many people do not take Jesus' road, the road less travelled, because it seems like a dead end.

We may think that this will not make us happy or fulfilled. But the truth is that taking Jesus' road, the road less travelled, brings an inner peace and satisfaction.

No other road or way of life or lifestyle can do this for us. As Robert Frost says, taking the road less travelled will make all the difference.