

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time-A: THE KEY OF TRUST- *When God Entrusts, We Must Serve: Is 22:19–23; Rom 11:33–36; Mat 16:13–20*

There is an old saying: **“A key is a small thing, but it can open a very big door.”** Today, the Word of God gives us a key—not simply a physical key, but the **key of trust**.

In the Gospel, Jesus asks His disciples: **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”** They give Him the opinions of others: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. But then Jesus makes the question personal: **“But who do you say that I am?”** This is one of the most important questions in the Christian life. Faith cannot remain only what **“people say.”** We may inherit our faith from our parents. We may grow up in the Church. We may know our prayers and doctrines. But eventually, Jesus asks each one of us: **“Who am I to you?”** Christianity is not merely knowing *about* Jesus. It is knowing **Jesus personally**. Faith moves from information to relationship, from inherited faith to personal trust.

Peter answers: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Peter is no longer repeating the crowd. He is making his own confession of faith. Jesus tells him that this revelation comes from God. Then Jesus gives Peter a new identity: **“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.”** Notice carefully: Jesus does not say, “Peter will build my Church.” He says, **“I will build my Church.”** Christ remains the builder. Peter becomes a foundation of service. This is an important lesson about Christian leadership. **Authority is entrusted; therefore, authority must serve.** Jesus continues: **“I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.”**

In the First Reading, God says of Eliakim: **“I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut; when he shuts, no one shall open.”** A key represents responsibility. The person holding the key does not own the house. He is entrusted with the key for the good of the household. This is the Christian understanding of authority. **God gives us gifts, positions, responsibilities, and opportunities—not so that we can become owners, but servants.** If God has given you authority in your family, serve your family. If God has entrusted you with children, guide them with love. If God has given you responsibility in the Church, strengthen others. If God has given you influence, use it to bring people closer to Christ. The key is not a crown of privilege. **The key is a responsibility of love.**

Jesus also speaks of **binding and loosing**. True Gospel authority is not about controlling people. It is about helping people become free—free from sin, resentment, fear, guilt, and despair. As Jesus says, **“If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”** A good leader does not make people permanently dependent

upon him. A good parent prepares a child to stand. A good teacher helps students grow. A good spiritual leader points people toward Christ.

Then Paul takes us even deeper in the Second Reading. Faced with the mystery of God's wisdom, he cries out: **“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!”** There are things about God that we will never completely understand. Sometimes we do not understand why a door closes. We do not understand why suffering comes. We do not understand why God allows certain things. But faith teaches us: **We may not understand everything, but we can still trust God.** Paul reminds us that **“from him and through him and for him are all things.”** Therefore, when God entrusts something to us, we receive it with humility. And when God leads us through mystery, we respond with trust.

So today, let us **take three simple lessons home:** **First: Ask Jesus personally, “Who are You to me?”** Do not live only on someone else's faith. Make your relationship with Christ personal.

Second: Use the key God has given you: Whatever responsibility God has placed in your hands—family, work, ministry, friendship, leadership—use it to serve.

Third: Open one door for someone: Welcome someone. Encourage someone. Forgive someone. Give someone another chance. Help someone come closer to God.

Perhaps God has placed a key in your hands because someone else is standing before a **door of hope**. And perhaps there is also a door we need to close: the door of resentment, gossip, revenge, pride, or destructive habits. Today, Jesus asks: **“Who do you say that I am?”** May our answer be the answer of Peter: **“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** And when Christ becomes the center of our lives: **the key becomes service, the rock becomes responsibility, authority becomes love, mystery becomes worship, and our lives become God's masterpiece.** **“God places the key of trust in our hands, not to make us owners, but to make us servants who open doors of faith, mercy, and hope.” Amen**