

The background is a watercolor-style illustration with warm, earthy tones of yellow, orange, and pink. It features faint, circular patterns and a cluster of red berries with green leaves in the bottom-left corner. The text is centered over this background.

Week 9

Christ's Church

Reading this week: second reading from Sunday

1 Cor 15: 20-28

Today

- Rite of Acceptance
- Quick Recap of Book
- Bible Study on How Jesus set up Structure and roles in Church:
- i.e. Peter and the Apostles
- How various roles fit together: overemphasis on institutional part leads to imbalance
- But to ignore it causes another imbalance- total splintering of faith

Prayer: Litany of Humility

Deliver me, Jesus...

From the desire of being loved

From the desire of being extolled

From the desire of being honored

From the desire of being praised

From the desire of being preferred
to others...

From the desire of being consulted

From the desire of being approved

From the fear of being humiliated ...

From the fear of being despised...

From the fear of suffering rebukes

From the fear of being calumniated

From the fear of being forgotten ...

From the fear of being ridiculed ...

From the fear of being wronged ...

From the fear of being suspected ...

Upcoming: Rite of Acceptance

- Coming up on Dec 6th- at the 9 AM Masses
- Optional step- no pressure, please continue with RCIA even if you are not ready for this yet.
- Interview call
- Paperwork needs to be done- initial signup form
- Criteria to enter the catechuminate

Recap of Text: Key points:

- Please pull out Sri text.

Apostles/Prophets in the OT

In the OT God uses mediators:

- Abraham, Moses, Levitical priesthood, the Judges, the Prophets

God also organizes his chosen people in a certain way:

- In the 12 tribes God continued the promises of the covenants he made with Abraham and later with Moses.
- In David (and his dynasty) God established a earthly non-permanent kingdom- promising by covenant that He would establish an everlasting kingdom through David's lineage.

Jesus and the New Kingdom

- Jesus came to the Children of Israel to bring a new kingdom
- It is an eternal and interior kingdom
- To proclaim this different kind of kingdom Jesus built on the OT covenants and transformed them
- 12 Tribes represented by the 12 apostles
- The New Davidic Kingdom now has a new Steward: Peter

The Apostles in NT

- Originally called *disciples*
- After Resurrection they become “Apostles” this means “sent ones” or messengers
- Given special function in the Body of Christ:
- That of governance and guidance.
- They are charges with making disciples of all nations and baptizing.
- And they are given special authorities and gifts to do this

Peter

- Matt 16
- Bind and loose
- Keys
- Gates of Death
- Name Change

Apostles also given role

- Similar
- But Peter given special place
- -always mentioned 1st in lists
- -Jesus told him he would have special role
- Peter alone given keys.

What about Peter's sin?

- Peter betrayed Jesus three times
- At end of John's Gospel something interesting happens

Acts of the Apostles

- Acts 11
- Acts 15

Apostles special role as well

- Laying on of hands
- Acts choosing successors
- Examples in Paul

Early Church Fathers

- Role of Bishops
- Special position of Bishops
- Special place of Peter's successors

Bottom line

- Jesus did not just throw some information out about himself
- He shaped a community, gave it structure, and sent it out so that His truth could be preserved
- AND
- So that this community would be the living witness to this truth.
- The Church is the RESULT and the PROCLAIMER of the Gospel and grace.

Discussion Questions

- Discuss the 4 marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic. How do these four marks serve the spread of the Gospel?
- How do we define each of these marks?
- What are they and what are they not?
- How does the world seek to emulate these, but without God?
- If we took one out, could the Church continue doing its work of the salvation of souls?
- How is the Church the body of Christ? How does this impact us and our salvation?