



Saint Jerome (340-420) is a Dalmatian priest, monk and Doctor of the Church. He is renowned for his extraordinary depth of learning and translations of the Bible into Latin in the Vulgate

First Reading: (Job 9:1-12, 14-16)

Job said to his friends, "Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be just before God? If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength - who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded? - he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger; who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; who alone stretched out the heavens, and trampled the waves of the sea; who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south; who does great things beyond understanding, and marvellous things without number. Lo, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. Behold, he snatches away; who can hinder him? Who will say to him, 'What doest thou'? How then can I answer him, choosing my words with him?"

Though I am innocent, I cannot answer him; I must appeal for mercy to my accuser. If I summoned him and he answered me, I would not believe that he was listening to my voice.

Ps 87:10:15

R./ Let my prayer come into your presence, O Lord.

Gospel: (Lk 9:57-62) As Jesus and his disciples were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Reflection: The Gospel today presents the seriousness and the cost of discipleship. All the three men wanted to follow Jesus. But he does not promise them an easy life. Instead he says, "The Son of Man has no place to lay his head. Jesus offers no earthly security. He also tells those following him to leave behind what one considers as priority. A true disciple of Jesus must place Him first before anything else in his life. **Our love for God and commitment should take priority over all other things. It is impossible to follow Jesus with a divided heart.** Following Jesus is a privilege but the path is difficult. To walk with God is not easy. Discipleship also demands urgency. Do I allow anything, no matter how good it may be, to come before my commitment to follow Christ?"