

Daily Homily  
Twenty-Ninth Week in Ordinary Time, Thursday  
21 October 2021  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

When this reading occurs over the cycle of lectionary readings, it always hits me rather hard. This is Jesus being abrupt and harsh and seemingly out of character.

We want Jesus to be the peacemaker, the healer, the miracle worker, the forgiver. But Jesus, the Firestarter and Jesus, the Divider? I would rather not cozy up to such a figure.

However, this is Jesus.

The in-breaking of God in our lives is not always going to be easy on us or on those around us. Look at the Apostles, they were taken away from family and from what they knew and their livelihood and they were completely dependent on this individual, Jesus. Look at the saints who sometimes had to make the same choices and decisions to leave family expectations, to put aside their own expectations in order to follow another path, the path of Christ.

We hear it more and more these days, I had to go for a regular check up at the eye doctor on Tuesday. The initial person who was running me through some tests was talking all about how their faith has their family very divided and on different pages.

On Sunday we heard him ask James and John do you want to be baptized with the same baptism in which I need to be baptized... they respond wholeheartedly, "We do." That also means being consumed by the same fire in which he is consumed. So how about you, how about us? We come forward today to consume Jesus in this Eucharist, well, it also goes the other way... in this Eucharist, allow him to consume you. Invite him to give you his passion, his baptism, his fire.

It may cause division, but if we hold onto it, it is also a life like none other.