

Daily Homily
Second Week in Lent, Wednesday
St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin and Religious
Optional Memorial
3 March 2021
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

In this scene the apostles are a bit off the rails and Jesus has to reel them in. I think it's because they were not listening.

Jesus said they were going to Jerusalem. Now, in the Apostles' minds this meant that Jesus was finally going to be the kind of Messiah that they had hoped for, someone who would rise up in the center of Judaism in Jerusalem and gather a military force and overthrow the Roman government and establish a new kingdom. Jesus told them, "we are going to Jerusalem" and that's all the disciples hear. They did not hear him say... hand over... condemned to death... mocked... scourged... crucified... raised on the third day. They only heard "Jerusalem" and they must have thought, "Finally, here we go, this is finally going to happen. We can stop wandering around and playing around in the various towns. Jesus is going to be the Messiah that we need him to be"

Then this comical thing with James' and John's mother asking for her two sons to be in positions of power when Jesus does establish his kingdom. Then the other apostles becoming indignant over that request, and we can presume because they want to know where their place in the kingdom will be. They have no idea what they are asking. They are in a state of "not getting it" all because they did not listen to him. Fast forward after the Resurrection... they are scattered, each in various locations proclaiming the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Eleven are martyred. Only John, entrusted with Mother Mary, lived out his life into old age. Out of the Twelve (if you remember Judas was replaced), none of them recanted. None of them turned back. They lived and died for him.

Listen to him. We are told that from his Baptism at the Jordan, to the mountain top at the Transfiguration. Listen to him. If you want to "get it" and be aligned with Jesus, we need to listen to him and not just hear what we want to hear. Perhaps this Lenten retreat day, we can pray with St. Benedict who asked, "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the ears of my heart, Lord." Spend some time today in prayerful listening to the Lord.