Family Commentary August 30-September 6, 2026

August 30: Matthew 16:21-28

In this Gospel, Jesus provides the disciples with a glimpse of what is to come. And that is some scary stuff. After hearing Jesus talk about suffering and death, Peter, who does not want to lose his beloved teacher and friend, refuses to believe all that he has heard. This statement is one of grief and one that any of us would say to a friend or mentor we care about. Jesus' response is shocking as he calls Peter Satan and a stumbling block to the coming of the kingdom.

This is another reading which is hard on the ears and brings up a lot of questions. And, what Jesus is trying to have the disciples understand is that their work does not need to involve fighting against the powers at be directly. There is plenty of work to do that fulfills the task of following Jesus that they do not need to seek out more. Feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and providing for the poor are the priorities of the kingdom of God. Peter, and the rest of the disciples, do not need to worry about Jesus' work, message, or love continuing if they live into his actions no matter what.

Question for Reflection:

What is one small way, right in front of you in your daily life, that you can follow Jesus' message of love?

September 6: Matthew 18:15-20

This Gospel reading gives us some very practical advice. Living together with other humans no matter the size of the family, community, class, or other group brings its challenges. Jesus explains that when we come into conflict with another person, we should try to work things out directly with them first. This makes way for clear communication and minimal mixed messages. If the person won't listen to our needs that way, we can bring a friend, family member, or other trusted person to help us communicate. This provides us with support and companionship when conversations are difficult. Finally, if our needs are still not met, we can bring our needs to the church, or other larger community, who can support us in larger ways. Most importantly, Jesus wants us to remember that when we come into conflict with one another, Jesus is in the midst of us as well. He knows the complexities of human life and will guide us as we navigate these complexities, too.

Questions for Reflection:

Have you ever been in conflict with someone before? How did you handle it?
Do you think you would try Jesus' method next time?