

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

What Shall I Ask For? Fourth Week in Ordinary Time Friday, February 8, 2019 Heb 13:1-8; **Mk 6:14-29** (St. Jerome Emiliani) (Since we are created for God, if we ask for God, we shall truly receive what we ask for.)

“She went out and said to her mother, ‘What shall I ask for?’”

This question is **a question for each of us: What shall we ask for?** Life is all about seeking. **What are we seeking?** Life is all about becoming? **What are we becoming?** There is an enormous amount of bad example: people desiring what is in fact worthless. That probably confuses most of us some of the time and perhaps some of us all the time. What shall I ask for?

There’s only **one thing worth asking for and that is God**, because we are actually created for God and **since we are created for God, if we ask for God, we shall truly receive what we ask for**. But if we ask for anything else, then we are really wasting our time, because what is any thing in comparison to God? And this of course is the very problem of the world we live in: how so many people don’t know how to answer that question. In fact the very word “God” to so many people is an abstraction that they can dismiss either formally by simply declaring themselves atheists or practically by simply ignoring the question. And there are many, **many practical atheists in the world who simply don’t bother with the issue of: who is God, where do I come from, and where am I going? Those are the real important questions**, because they help us answer the question of: What shall I ask for?

So this is not a trivial story; it’s a very sad story. **It’s a sad story of many people on the very wrong path**, who are codependent on each other, and who, to our knowledge, never come to the light. Mark writes his gospel about many wonderful things, but then he has to be very truthful and tell us the real story of our human history.