

2 Easter MonDAY 2020 JN 3:1-8

The last we heard of Nicodemus was Good Friday. He, along with Joseph of Arimathea, buried the body of Jesus according to Jewish burial customs.

This morning's gospel goes back in time, to the first time Nicodemus meets Our Blessed Lord, and relays a conversation that was had between Jesus and Nicodemus, in the middle of the night. You feel as if you are eavesdropping on a conversation that was meant to be private. And one would expect the conversation between the learned master Nicodemus and the Divine Master Jesus to be a conversation that would go right over our heads. But Our Blessed Lord never fell prey to what the world would necessitate as intelligent conversation.

In this world so full of ourselves, never before in history has there been:

- ✓so much thinking and so little coming to the knowledge of the truth,
- ✓so many schools and so little scholarship,
- ✓so many wise men and so little wisdom,
- ✓so much talking about religion and so little prayer.

Intelligent conversation as defined by the modern world, must be sophisticated; it must be liberal; and it must be up to date.

Our Blessed Lord, on the other hand, did not make His message:

sophisticated, but simple;

not liberal, but transforming;

not up to date, but eternal.

Just in terms of sophistication, Our Blessed Lord is never complex. There is no trick or rhetoric, no appeal to the intelligentsia, no pomp of demonstration.

His sermons were given under the open sky, by the hillside, alongside the lake, or in the road way. They were never given in front of a palace or city hall. He didn't stand behind a podium or microphone. He never held a first century press conference. His words could be understood just as well by the learned inquirer Nicodemus in the middle of the night, as by the lost woman at the well at high noon.

On one occasion, speaking to poor working-men on a street corner, He made use of their patched clothing, their old bottles and new wine. One day on a hillside near the Sea of Galilee, he saw on the opposite hill a man going out to sow his

seed. As the disciples watched the man, they heard Jesus' Parable of the Sower and the Seed.

He spoke of everyday joys and sorrows, using:

- ✓ The salt on the table
- ✓ The village on the hill
- ✓ The candlestick in the windowsill
- ✓ Sheep and goats
- ✓ Camels and the eyes of needles
- ✓ Daily bickering with the local judge
- ✓ Course language he heard on the street
- ✓ The hot sun beating down on them.
- ✓ The lighting flash from east to west
- ✓ Thorns and thistles
- ✓ Sheep and wolves
- ✓ Eggs and serpents, nets and fish
- ✓ yada yada yada.

He just made it so simple to understand.

So in this time of pandemic, wouldn't you just love to hear, not a sermon from me, but a sermon from Him, who can explain things in the simplest of terms so we can understand? Of course you would. But just knowing that He could deliver such a sermon and make such perfect sense of the who, the

what, the how, the where and the why of this pandemic is enough for us who believe. Yesterday's gospel and sermon was about doubting Thomas. Once He saw and touched, He no longer had to believe because He knew. Those of us who are men and women of faith need not see or touch or hear, we just need to believe. We just need to trust. Jesus, I trust in you.