

5 Easter Monday 2020  
JN 14:21-26

The third day, 2000 years ago, throughout all of Galilee and Judea, and all the ancient world over for that matter, was a day much like any other day. I'd like to think it wasn't, that there was something different, something unusual. But it wasn't. It was the morning after the Sabbath.

- ✓ Farmers rose early and dragged their plows into the fields.
- ✓ Children ran through the streets and alleys.
- ✓ Wives and mothers gathered at the river to scrub yesterday's dirt off tomorrow's clothes.
- ✓ The marketplaces filled with buyers and sellers,
- ✓ the roadways (buzzing) with chariots and donkey carts.

The third day was pretty much like any other day . . .

If I may be so bold . . . If it were you rising from the dead? If it were me rising from the dead on the third day? It would have been no ordinary day. It would not have been ordinary at all.

- ✓ I would have gone from the tomb, straight to the stairs of the Roman governor's palace, and call Pontius Pilate out in front of the masses.

- ✓ And from there I would have paid a well deserved little visit to the priests and the teachers of the law, and rubbed their noses with the bloody cross.
- ✓ Satan would watch me jump from the parapet of the temple, fly through the air, and turn stones into bread.
- ✓ I would have accepted
  - a triumphant reception,
  - a victory parade,
  - a first century press conference.

The third day would have been no ordinary day. It would not have been ordinary at all . . .

And you know what? It is that kind of thinking that brings us full circle, right back to the events leading up to Holy Thursday night, right back to the disease that Our Blessed Lord longed to, and could, heal and liberate others from - more than any other, 2000 years ago, more than any other, today. It is:

- ✓ the disease of pride,
- ✓ the disease of self righteousness,
- ✓ self - justification,
- ✓ self - pursuit,
- ✓ self - reliance.

It could be called the “Judas Syndrome,” that my way is better than God’s way, hence Judas’ question in today’s Gospel, “Lord, why is it that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

That may very well be why Judas took matters into his own hands and pushed Our Blessed Lord’s envelope past a divine boundary, and had Him killed. To think that any one of us could rise from the dead better than He did. It is the “Judas Syndrome” at its worst.

So there are the Monday morning quarterbacks who are the self proclaimed experts in pandemics. Let’s be very careful not to commit the sin of modernism. In this case modernism is judging decisions and actions made in January, February and March based on what we know on May 11<sup>th</sup>. So unfair.

Modernism is never fair. Modernism judges how your Mom and Dad raised you based on 2020 standards. So unfair.

Modernism would judge medicine and pandemics one hundred years ago during the Spanish Flu based upon what we know about medicine and pandemics today. Just not fair.

So let us pray for our leaders in government and in medicine, that they be guided by the Holy Spirit. According to

the last line in today's gospel, the Holy Spirit will instruct us in everything.