

4B 2021 SML
MK 1:21-28

St. John closes his Gospel with the words that if he had written down all Our Lord had done, “the world itself would not be able to contain the books that would be written.” (JN 21:25) The wide variety of Our Lord’s actions however, can be reduced to three:

1. He taught because He is a Teacher,
2. He governed because He is a King, and
3. He sanctified because He is a Savior.

Let’s flesh out these three categories as two of the three are mentioned in this evening’s/morning’s gospel:

Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority. V21

He taught because He is a Teacher; He governed because He has the authority of a King.

First, as Teacher, He is Truth. Because He is God, He is absolute divine infallible Truth. He said, “I am the Truth.” For the first time in history, Truth and Personality were identified. Now, do you really believe that this Divine Truth would come to this earth, speak a few words, and allow them to be wafted

away by a Galilean breeze? It is absurd to believe that He Who wrote only once in His Life, (and that was in the sand), and Who never told anyone to write, should have intended that His Truth should be available only in four Gospels. These Gospels, by the way, were written down by a few followers a good thirty years after His Death, and were never gathered together in their approved form until three centuries later. Granted the Gospels are inspired and revealed, and I believe, confess and read the Gospel daily, it is unthinkable that these books, which were not written until the Church had already spread through the whole of the Roman Empire, should be His only way of communicating Truth. If He did not take some effective guarantee to preserve His Truth, which was so sacred that He died for it, then Truth did not matter to Him. If He could not prolong His Truth up to this hour, **(tell them the time on your watch)** then He is not God. Either the infallible Truth of Jesus Christ is living now and available now, or He is not God. Our problem is we need to find that infallible Divine Truth. Come, Lord, not with a dead Truth, but with a living, breathing, speaking Truth which is the Truth of God, to lead the world from darkness to light. Come with the Truth, even though, You

would have to use human nature to communicate it now, as You did then.

Secondly, Our Blessed Lord fulfilled the office of King. As King He is the source of authority, hence, today's gospel, He taught with **authority!**

As the Son of God, He said, "All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me." (MT 28:18) The winds and the sea obeyed Him, and when Pilate boasted that he had the power to condemn Him, Our Lord reminded him, "You would have no authority over Me unless it had been given to you from above." (JN 19:11)

It would be absolutely incredible that this Power and Authority to change the hearts of nations, should have died with Our Lord. We are living in a world:

- ✓ where false authorities are claiming our allegiance,
- ✓ where public opinion makes us dizzy;
- ✓ where neither politician nor main stream media is to be believed,
- ✓ where the power of the State is trying to invade personal rights and limit what we say and what we hear

Hence we need someone to remind the modern Pilates there is another Power and Authority from above. We have plenty of

authorities to tell us what is right when the world is right; we want and need a living Christ today who will tell us what is right when the world is wrong. The Lord needs to use His Divine Authority NOW by using human natures NOW as He used a human nature over the span of three years and 250 miles some 2000 years ago.

It is absurd to think that God Who came to this earth not only to teach about the forgiveness of sins but with the authority to forgive sins, should have left us to the mercy of four gospels to attain this Divine Life.

Should the Magdalens of our streets be denied the forgiveness that was given to the woman who entered Simon's house? Should:

the frustrated,

the bored,

the addicted

and the fearful

be the way they are because Christ forgot to prolong His forgiving power? Should those whose minds are burdened because they cannot forget their past, suffer the added agony of thinking that Christ is past and gone for 2000 years now?

We who live two thousand years after His Ascension should not be penalized for this accident of time and space, for we need Him just as much now as then. I would very much doubt His Divinity if He could not overcome the barriers of years and the boundaries of Palestine, and make great gifts:

- ✓ to New York City, London and Moscow now, as well as Judea and Galilee then
- ✓ to the shepherds of Texas now, as well as the shepherds of Bethlehem then,
- ✓ to the fishermen off the Massachusetts coast now, as well as the fishermen on the Sea of Galilee then.

Let's be clear. Christ does live! He said that. "I will be with you always until the end of the world!" Our problem is to find out where and how He lives today. But where to look?

Let's begin with the fact that He first taught, governed and sanctified through a human nature which was given to Him by His Mother who was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. He taught them through that Body that Mary nursed and He sanctified through the Body that Mary saw as she stood by the Cross.

Therefore, I would not be surprised if that is not the way He would continue to live through the centuries, namely, in

another Body, this time not a physical and individual Body like the one He took from Mary, but in a social and mysterious Body where Mary would be present at its conception through the power of the Holy Spirit hovering over its first members on Pentecost Sunday. As He taught, governed and sanctified through His physical Body, so He teaches, governs and sanctifies through a social Body which He would infuse with the Holy Spirit and make it a Mystical Body, namely the Catholic Church.

And in His Mystical Body, the Catholic Church, Jesus consoles other widows than at Naim, and there would be:

- ✓ other friends than those in Bethany
- ✓ other nuptials than those at Cana
- ✓ other apostles than those on the shore of Galilee.
- ✓ other converts than the woman at the well and the soldiers at the Crucifixion

The Mystical Body of the Church that:

- ✓ shows meekness to other soldiers who execute
- ✓ patience to timid disciples
- ✓ love for publicans

- ✓ friendliness to other Judases
- ✓ devotion to other Johns and
- ✓ affection to other Marys

If we do not see Him living today in the Mystical Body of the Church, then we would not have seen Him living two thousand years ago in His Physical Body. If we do not believe the Mystical Body of the Church to be divine, because it is also so human, then we would not have believed His Physical Body to be Divine, because He was crucified. And if we miss Our Lord, it is not because He is too far away, but because He is too close, for He said, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock.”