

Annunciation Parish - Scripture Study 5/12/20

—Greeting and Opening Prayer

Any thoughts or questions from scripture passages you have read?

- Other faith questions?

READINGS:

ACTS 8:5-8, 14-17

PS 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (Let all the earth cry out to God with joy)

1 PT 3:15-18

JN 14:15-21

GOSPEL:

- Loving Jesus involves some action. Keeping the commandments is part of that love. How is this like the relationship of parent and child?
- Jesus will send *another* advocate - the Spirit. The world cannot accept because can't see-can we?
- We will not be left orphans (notice the parental imagery - but is he brother or parent?)
- The world will not see him - but followers will - where will they/we see him?
- He is in the Father and the Father is in him - connects to question above. How is it that they are in each other? Where is the Spirit in all of this? (these are some of the Scriptural connections to the Dogma of the Trinity - which is not explicitly stated in Scripture, but is woven throughout)
- Again observing commandments - but I thought we were free from the law - isn't faith all that is required? What other passages talk about Judgement being connected to actions. (Faith + Works)
- Joining into the love relationship between Father and Son we become lover and beloved

FIRST READING:

- Philip preaches powerfully and effectively. His words plus the signs wins them over.
 - Great deliverance from demons and cures preformed by God through Philip
- After accepting the Word of God - Peter and John go to lay hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit.
 - First they accept and are baptized, then Apostles come to lay hands on them to receive the Spirit. See the basis of the sacrament of Baptism and the other outpouring at the hands of an Apostle (Bishops being their successors) as basis for Confirmation.
- Notice the praying of one group for members of the other - the unity that is developing - do we strive for and achieve such unity?

SECOND READING:

- Christ as "Lord of our Hearts" - what does that mean?
- Are we ready to give an explanation for our hope? How could we be more ready?
- Way to do it:
 - Gentleness and reverence
 - With conduct that does not give cause for accusation
- We can suffer for doing good or for doing evil - suffering for doing good is better - Just like Jesus - Leads to God and to a rebirth in the Spirit. How does this apply to our lives?

—Closing Prayer