

“Selfless Love vs. Selfish Passions”

Anyone who’s watched football or baseball games with any regularity over the years has almost assuredly seen a “JOHN 3:16” sign in the crowd behind end zones or home plate. *“God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”* Perhaps better than any other single verse of Scripture, John 3:16 of today’s Gospel reading captures



the amazing Love of the Father, the mission and sacrifice of the Son on our behalf, and our great Hope for eternal life with our faith in Jesus Christ. It also reveals how the great sacrificial actions of the Father and the Son are motivated first and foremost by Love.

In our first reading, we see that Love was clearly NOT the motivating factor behind actions of *“the high priest... and all his companions.”* Rather, they were *“filled with JEALOUSLY”* as they *“laid hands upon the Apostles and put them in the public jail.”* After an angel freed the Apostles in the night, they were teaching in the

temple area the next day when they were again apprehended, *“but without force, because the [leaders] were AFRAID of being stoned by the people.”*

The various pressures and passions of life can sometimes leave us in a moral dilemma, pulling us in opposite directions. In such times we may wrestle with how to best respond. From today’s readings we see that being motivated by Jealousy and Fear -- vice sacrificial Love of God and the flock -- all but guarantees the decisions that follow will be perilously wrong. This is not only a lesson for today’s Church leaders, but to all of us. In our own families, our own circles of influence, let us always emulate the Good Shepherd: loving our flock so much that we give our all for them. May we learn to make decisions based on selfless Love vice selfish passions.

Peace,

Dcn Ron

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<http://usccb.org/bible/readings/042220.cfm>