

2021 May 09

Sixth Sunday of Easter.

Reading:

First: Acts 10.25-26, 34-35, 44-48, "The gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles." (46b)

The Psalm: 98, "All the ends of the earth has seen the victory of our God." (3b)

Second: 1 John 4.7-10 "Let us love one another, because love is from God." (7)

The Gospel: John 15.9-17, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (12)

Love, and be loved

Jesus is giving us a commandment, which probably, we cannot obey! He asks us to love one another as he loved us. Who can ever think of loving as Jesus did? No human might ever have been born with such capacity to love as Jesus loved. His love was such that he forsook himself totally for us, his loved ones; he abandoned the comforts, position, power and even dominion over all creation, which he enjoyed till he decided to be born as a human; he lived a life, which was the poorest of all poor; along with his birth, and very often during his life on earth he had to be a fugitive, refugee, homeless, and absolutely with no possessions.

During his life he did only good and never ever anything bad; he healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, capacity to walk to the crippled and paralyzed; he gave food to the hungry, raised up the dead; he proclaimed liberty to the oppressed and downtrodden; and he gave to humanity the capacity to be the children of God. In return for these he was imprisoned, tortured and killed on a cross. All the above acts of Jesus were expressions of his love for us. Who among us can think about doing or undergoing such things as Jesus did? That is the reason I said that we may not be able to love like Jesus.

Let us accept that though we are incapable of loving as much as Jesus did, we may attempt to imitate the love of Jesus at least in a fragmented style and in some areas. Of course, Jesus is the best for us to imitate in love. Another point we need to accept about our loving is that we are not at all the source of love. God is the sole source of love, and we have in us only the love we received from God, and we give this love to the ones we love. This is the meaning of what John speaks today in his first letter, "love is from God." This is a profoundly meaningful statement of St. John. God is the originator of love; it proceeds from him; everyone receives love from God and what one receives only one gives to the other.

Love coming from God is perfect. With humans it gets dissipated, scattered, diluted and even polluted. The pollution takes place through jealousy, greed, enmity, selfishness, hatred, self-centeredness, animosity, discrimination, etc. We can attempt at is only improving upon our imperfect love. To help us grow in love, we need to look at the love Jesus gave us and imitate that love. Jesus is the incarnation of love and he offers to dwell in us, he abides in us inviting us to abide in him. When this indwelling or abiding in takes place we will be better lovers and will be loved better. This nature of abiding in us that Jesus has must form part of our attempts to learn the way Jesus loved us and continues to love. That means, even when the beloved, the loved one walks away from the love of Jesus consciously or otherwise, he walks with us without fail. If we truly want to love, this walking along and running after the loved ones must be also part of our agenda.

(The readings of the day are given at the beginning. The numbers in parentheses refer to the quotes from them. Good to go through the readings beforehand to properly understand the Reflections)

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