

Saturday, May 16, 2020; 5th Week of Easter

Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 99(100):1-3, 5; John 15:18-20

“If the world hates you, remember that it hated me before you.”

It is wonderful to celebrate being God’s Elect by virtue of Jesus’ choice. Living fully as people chosen and sent by the Lord has dire consequences. As God’s Elect, disciples are consecrated, that is, set apart, for God’s purposes to which they must always dispose themselves, by always yielding to the dictates of the Holy Spirit, just like Paul and Timothy in the first reading.

As a people set apart, Jesus reminds us that his choice took us out of the world to himself. Yet, being truly in the world but not of the world could incur the wrath of the world. Disciples can therefore expect to be treated with the same scorn and violence that Jesus encountered during his earthly ministry.

Consequently, a true disciple would not feel comfortable with worldly ways. A disciple, who is embraced by, and embroiled in, worldly ways and loved by the world is living a lie. Authentic discipleship is counter-cultural in an era that glorifies unbridled corruption and the culture of death. The prophetic character of Christian witness must always challenge such a culture and be enduring in doing that, despite opposition and rejection.

Lord, help us to be true to our calling. Amen.

Fr. Maurice