

SATURDAY EASTER 4

First Reading: Acts 13: 44-52;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 98: 2-3ab, 3cd-4;

Gospel Reading: Jn 14: 7-14.

THEME: Disciples Can Do the Great Works of Jesus

Jesus Christ is with us in Spirit. He continues to be in us through his Spirit. That is why the Acts of the Apostles is called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. Through the efforts of the Apostles, Christ as the light of the world reaches the ends of the earth as affirmed by the Lord, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5: 14). Paul and Barnabas carried the Good News to ends of the known world at their time. Despite the Gospel message of forgiveness, justice, and love, it often attracts rejection in various forms of violence as experienced by Paul and Barnabas.

Notwithstanding, in Christ, God invites us to a personal relationship. The greatest treasure in life is to know God. For God said: *"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows me"* (Jeremiah 9:23-24). Jesus is the fullest revelation of God. He taught us to address him as "Our Father, who art in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9,11; Luke 11:2-3). Jesus demonstrated his closeness with the Father in heaven. Jesus's acts of speaking, forgiving, healing, and giving life are acts of the Father. Jesus is intimately united with the Father. This also demonstrates our closeness with our heavenly father.

Consequently, Jesus exalts us by saying we can do greater works. Jesus Christ was limited in his humanity: He lived in Israel, he spoke Aramaic, (and probably some Greek), and he could reach out to a relatively small number of people besides his disciples. Modern technological developments enable the Church to do more than Jesus Christ. Thanks to technological advances, disciples of Jesus can instantly send messages to the ends of the earth. Similarly, our good works can be carried to every corner of the world. Through us, the works of Jesus Christ are not limited by space and time. Indeed, the light of the world can reach the ends of the earth. Like the Apostles, may we find joy in our sufferings for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel message of love and new life in the Holy Spirit.

--Fr. Sev Kupo