

Homily Fr Dispin John 7/6/2020 The Most Holy Trinity Sunday St John's Mitcham

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There is a story about Mullah who was looking for something under the street lights at night. A stranger happened to be walking past and he saw this and he asked Mullah what he was looking for. Mullah said, I am looking for my wedding ring. I lost it. Feeling pity for Mullah, the stranger also joined in the search. After about 30 minutes of frantically searching everywhere. The stranger asked to Mullah: "We looked for it for a long time. We seem to have covered a lot of ground here. Do you remember where exactly you lost it so that we can narrow the search?" And Mullah said: "Well, I lost it at home." The stranger was a bit shocked. And he said: "So you lost your wedding ring at home, and you are looking for it here." And Mullah said: "Well, it is very dark in the house and there is no light there. I found some light here, and that is why I am searching here."

In the first reading today, we hear Moses encountering God on the mountain. What the reading doesn't tell us today is what was happening on the ground, underneath. While Moses was busy encountering the compassion of God, the people were busy, building a golden calf to worship as their God.

Both Moses and the people were hungry for the loving affirmation of God to guide them through the hardships and the darkness of the desert to go to the land of freedom for a brighter future. For the people in their impatience chose to look for God of their fantasy and convenience.

A search for God can take us to many places. In fact, many people have spent their lifetime looking for God, like Mullah in the story. We could be looking for God in the wrong places. We might sometimes place our comfort and convenience and fantasy as a priority while searching for God. On the contrary, today's feast of the most Holy Trinity is about God looking for us. God searching for us. For God loved the world so much that he sent his only son for the life of the world. It's a festival of God's love we celebrate today. God's unconditional love. We see in today's gospel that in the dark of night, a very cautious diplomat from Jerusalem meets the outspoken prophet from Galilee. Nicodemus is genuinely impressed by the reports he had heard about Jesus, but as a member of the great council, he could not risk his own career. So he comes in the darkness to see Jesus, but Jesus, his response is open. He says: "I have come so that you may have life. You have come searching for God, but God is searching for you. God loved the world so much that he gave his only son."

Jesus meets the personal search of Nicodemus with the affirmation of God's unconditional love. At the heart of the gospel we hear that God's relationship with the world is rooted in love. It is not rooted in suspicion or condemnation as rumour had led so many to believe, but it is God's radical love, which gives our world its importance. It is that same love, which gives all of us our essential dignity. God's love is the more significant, because it is fully aware of the sin, our sinfulness and our faults, and yet choosing to love. It is not a love that protects itself from being hurt. It is a love that has a courage to go to the cross for the sake of love. At the centre of the mystery of God is God's everlasting love and fidelity.

Sometimes our response can be very shabby. We are unfaithful. We are sinful, but the constancy of God's love is real. And that is why we find it difficult at times to understand this love. God's ceaseless love of the world is so great that he sent his beloved son, Jesus, among us. The son's faithful love is so great that he faced the ultimate infidelity being put to death by those he loved. But God survives the death of his son, Jesus. God raised his son and sent his spirit so that we could share the very life of the love of our God. God is love. God seems to be finding newer and creative ways to love us even more. In honouring that Trinity, today, we celebrate the awesome stubbornness of God's extravagant love for our world, for you and for me,

The Father, the Son, and the Holy spirit, all three persons reveal the fullness of the unity of God's love. We experience something of that love when it is communicated in simple ways, through the people and

events that we encounter every day. Most of us have experienced that generosity of love through our parents, through our friends, through our continued relationship with so many people that care about us. Jesus reveals this love fully when He chose to go to the cross for our sake. So, Jesus, if you like, is the epitome of this love that we encounter in the Trinity. As children of the love of God, we never grow out of the need for love of God. On this beautiful feast of God's love, the most Holy Trinity, I pray that you will find that love in your lives, that you will be filled with that love abundantly, that you and your families will be filled with the same love, and may the grace of God, the Father and the Son and the Holy spirit come down and abide in each one of you.