

Homily Transcript
4th Sunday after Easter, more ancient form
May 10, 2020
Fr. Colin Blatchford
(automatically generated from spoken homily, as the homily is not written)

Happy Mother's Day. I think that our readings and Gospel will play into sort of the motherly spirit with her children in which she exercises patience and raising them right nourishing them within her body feeding them caring for them introducing them to the Lord praying in fasting for them when they fight with the Lord or disregard.

His will. And indeed rejoice when He comes back when the child comes back. Today I read from James. We are given a sort of not a particular story but rather a set of how to be cautious or slow when we hear when when we are speaking we swift when we listen to the take in the word of God be careful in our anger for even the just anger indulged leads to an overabundance in the passion.

And I think that's what I would like to talk about the passions and true peace of heart or in a time in which there's great turmoil within our hearts anxiety about the way that things are going in the world sickness economy. Our church our faith all these different things.

And yet we need to cultivate a piece of soul. We talked a little bit last week about having two planes and how we need to be living for one. We need to be living for heaven as saints. We need to be working on being saints and not allowing for ourself.

To draw on wild maybe I'll make it and not be ashamed, right? We need to be focused on giving everything to our Lord and today we kind of get this same thing. The Lord has spoken in the gospel to his apostles about the suffering that they would undergo. He's told them this multiple times.

They haven't fully received it yet. It's not clear to them though, he's open the Scriptures to them, right? Though he has walked with them. MMS, etc. And yet. I need to send the Spirit. Why does the Spirit have to come to show these things?

The spirit is that participation in the divine nature. So the apostles having the spirit been having had the spirit poured out upon them have that share. That's where this piece of heart comes from not because well, I've worked very hard and I've earned Saint hood. I've earned heaven, right?

Because obviously we can't do that to be polygenism or semi-polygenism. But we also don't want to say that all I have to do is say yes to God and then sit here. Amongst a rockstars or stormy sea, right? We don't want to be zen. You don't want to be stoics.

But we do want to have peace of heart. Piece of heart truly would fit with fear of the Lord. Because there is a trust within the fear of the Lord right to know that. He loves us. That. He gives everything to us that we have that upon spitting in.

His face and rejecting Him. He takes us back lovingly. And that He constantly calls us to Himself to a deep and abiding union with Him. So as that means for us here in the world. What does that mean for us as we go through life with our coronaviruses or our job losses or our sick children or family members or a loss of a spouse or a parent or a loved one.

It means that we can maintain a piece of heart because we can see that God's hands are on all of this. It doesn't make it feel good. It doesn't make it easy. But it does allow for us to begin to surrender to God. That which is his to begin with our hearts.

The indulgence in anxiety or anger that James is sort of speaking up here the indulgence of passion right the passions emotions. Is our response to something. Not God's response to something. Now anger itself is not evil right because it is rather an emotional response to a perceived injustice. And in some cases there really isn't injustice and it spurs us on to write the wrong.

However, it can very easily spur us on to trample the wrong. And that's not good or perhaps we overindulge within a friendship and idle chatter, right? It can lead us to gossip. And so we see that within all these things these anxieties within the world the overindulgence within the passions disorder the soul.

And what James is telling us here is that even indulging in the smallest for the first motions to anger our frequently in deliberate and consequently not sin. Ful. But we must be careful to resist as soon as we perceive them lest they should become too violent violent obtain the consent of our will.

It's from the rule of Saint Benedict. So Benedict is telling us that we must take these things as I said last week remember Psalm 137. Oh Babylon appease he who takes who smashes your little ones upon the rock the rock being Christ the little ones being temptation battle on being the devil, right?

Or God come to my assistance or Lord make haste to help me crying out to the Lord for help. Lord preserve the dignity. I have received him baptism and give me great love for your divine word. Strengthen me to subdue my tongue and use it only for thy glory.

That's when my father needs to remember. James. Is telling us that these even these tiniest of indulgences in this reading. The tiniest of these indulgences in the passions can lead to great disorder in our lives. The way that man works is a body's soul composite is that he has these interior senses.

We receive information from reality the sensible world is brought into us by our five senses sight hearing smell taste touch. It's processed interiorly by the common sense and the imagination which make a picture in our mind, right? Fantasm memory stores this and recalls it later and we don't have the object in front of us.

And the cogitative faculty. Puts little markers on it of whether it's good or it's bad it has these emotions and then the intellect assesses it and compares it to the universal truth. Now, Normally the way it should be when we look at creation and Adam and Eve is that from the from the intellect in which God writes on our heart.

What is good we then enact that via our passion saying yes food is good and too much food is bad and I will avoid it. And so we order the passions and the desires and the emotions the appetites to go within moderation after those things. But what happens if we constantly stimulate those desires as because I'll tell you what that bacon cheeseburger tastes really darn good.

Okay. When we answer those longings and desires constantly. In an instant gratification. Oh man someone yelled at me social media has someone like to my post, right? You know, I'm kind of feeling down today. I'm gonna make a cute little lunch and then take a picture and Instagram it.

I'm gonna go eat my bacon cheeseburger because I don't feel good. What happens is? Rather than the reason telling the passions and informing them what to do. The passions begin to take on a power that controls us. The extreme of this is addiction in which the individual fields as if they've completely lost free will.

And James is warning us that at the very beginning of this those first temptations to indulge that anger even when justified because the dirty son of a gun cut me off right to say no. My brother probably didn't see me there. When they turned into the street. To cut those off immediately.

Removes the possibility of a greater sin. And this is very hard for us in our time because we have all these things of instant gratification. But I think in this kind of brings it into mother's day, right? Because the Holy Spirit does this for us it unites us to God right the most patient being being who gives us all these things who's provided for all these things who call us to him gives us sufficient grace to get there prepares a place for us in heaven.

And never gives up on us. And continually forgives us. So he's put everything in place to get us there and the Holy Spirit is that gift which activates all those things helps us right saying to find grace within our souls. How much is this like the mother who has the child before who is frustrated?

Because they can't communicate what they want to the one that they love. And rather than getting angry at them and screaming which doesn't really help. Impatience, she receives the frustration from the child. While correcting any disorder behavior but receives it. And then gives back love and care patience nurturing and virtue.

And what does the child do? This is the child ignore. No, it responds it responds, very deeply to it. And the behavior begins to stop. I don't know how to process these emotions in my head because I'm one and a half. I'm two years old. I can barely communicate.

I'm frustrated because you can't understand what I'm telling you. So we work on it. And then they can communicate. They still have their problems. They're still growing. They're still learning. But they they stop using that as a means of communication. Well, the same thing is true for us within the life of virtue, right?

Getting frustrated in yelling at people. Sitting right? Like, oh my gosh, I can't believe you know this person cut me off or you know what? I'm so mad right now. I'm just gonna go eat a bacon cheeseburger. That's like it's a yell of comfort, right? So instead of doing that we receive it.

We process it at the root, why is this making me so mad? What is the injustice here? And then we return love and virtue back. We don't say that it's all okay because it might be bad behavior. But we give back love and virtue. That's really what it means to love your enemies and to pray for those who persecute you.

That is how you maintain peace of heart in a world like the one we live in with great egoism and narcissism and materialism. By bringing God directly into the heart and receiving all that has given

assessing it according to God's will. Pardon me. Transforming those frustrating things and giving them back and love and virtue.

So, how can we do that? Let us take some time to reflect upon those things perhaps that cause the greatest impatience in us. Or those things that stop. Our our reaching out in a nurturing or loving way to those around us coworkers family members, whoever it may be. Those are the things that are cutting us off in the spiritual life.

Those are the things that are stunting us within our relationship with God because you cannot say that you love God and hate your neighbor. You are a liar. Comes right out of the scripture. And so we need to we need to find a way to take those things and give them back in a way that shows our true love of God to our neighbor.

That is your challenge this week. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of those.