

The Most Holy Trinity May 30, 2021

I can remember a time when as parents, we went on vacation leaving kids at home. We reminded them, “remember everything I have told you. Please obey what you have been told to do.” I expected things to be in the same condition when I got home as when we departed. We left long lists for the kids of chores to do (to keep them busy), and a freezer full of food, and a reminder to keep up with their homework. We worried while we are gone. Will they be okay? Will they be safe? Will they follow the instructions we left for them. Will the house still be standing when we get back!

In today’s Gospel, the eleven disciples, who have gone to Galilee, are on the mountain Jesus has directed them to. This is their final encounter with Jesus. “When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted.” Did they doubt this was really Jesus? After all the teaching and directing Jesus did while with the disciples, they still doubted Jesus was the Risen Lord. To doubt is only human. We too are prone to doubt. We can doubt that Jesus really exists. We can doubt that God is in control of this pandemic. We can even doubt ourselves and not believe we are a child of God.

Jesus tells the disciples “go therefore and make disciples of all nations.” Jesus could have given many directions to the disciples but he didn’t. The direction Jesus gives is an action found in the word “make.” This direction implies do whatever is necessary to make disciples. Jesus does not say, “go and form disciples” or even “teach all the nations”. No, he says to “make” disciples of all nations. Jesus instructs the disciples to baptise them “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

Obedience to the teachings of Jesus brings us into new life, a life so wonderful we can hardly imagine what it will be like! This final encounter with the risen Lord is a new beginning in life for the disciples and for us. Even for the disciples who now number eleven instead of twelve, the command given by Jesus is still to go. The perfect number of twelve is no longer present. The perfect Church does not exist either. We too are sent, in our imperfect selves to an imperfect world belonging to an imperfect Church. This is what we call the “Great Commissioning.”

Someday, the Last Day will arrive for us. We will stand before Jesus and answer for what we have done and for what we have failed to do. Did we take seriously the Great Commissioning to go and make disciples? Did we obey everything that he commanded? It’s not too soon to examine your answers! Well, I am pleased to say when we returned from our vacation, everyone and everything was just fine. The kids were very proud of what they accomplished while we were away; in fact they saw it as a challenge to do just as good, if not better, than Mum & Dad would do!

Reflection by Julie de Gouw, Pastoral Minister