

BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



June 1, 2014

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Lectionary: 59

Gospel [jn 17:1-11a](#)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your son, so that your son may glorify you, just as you gave him authority over all people, so that your son may give eternal life to all you gave him. Now this is eternal life, that they should know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ. I glorified you on earth by accomplishing the work that you gave me to do. Now glorify me, Father, with you, with the glory that I had with you before the world began. "I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you gave me is from you, because the words you gave to me I have given to them, and they accepted them and truly understood that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for the ones you have given me, because they are yours, and everything of mine is yours and everything of yours is mine, and I have been glorified in them. And now I will no longer be in the world, but they are in the world, while I am coming to you."

Spiritual Reflection

In today's Gospel Jesus is coming to the end of His earthly mission and in some sense His prayer is a reflection on His experiences as His earthly life is coming to an end. When a regular human being is dying and knows there is nothing he or she can do to stop it, he or she may tend to focus on what is most important to him or her. Jesus' last recorded prayer is not about himself but for us. This again points out how altruistic Jesus is. He is never thinking about Himself but He is always loving others.

Spiritual Question

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What would we know about God without Jesus' revelation?
3. What does Jesus' revelation about God help us know more about God?
4. Who or what would you pray for in your last moments?
5. What things would you regret not doing if you died today?

June 1, 2014

The Ascension of the Lord

Lectionary: 58

Gospel [mt 28:16-20](#)

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Spiritual Reflection

I love the phrase "they worshipped but they doubted." What was it that they doubted? A part of me believes it was in their ability to carry on without Jesus. Would they go back to their old way of life? They had almost done that once. Would they go and hide in the upper room? They had also done that. Jesus reassures them though that He will be with them (and us) until the end of days.

Spiritual Question

1. How do you worship God?
2. Why do you worship God?
3. What prevents you from going back to your former way of life?
4. How are you carrying out Jesus' command to "go and make disciples