

Day 2 – Fr Jerome’s Lockdown Reflections

Saturday in Lent 4

28 March 2020

Readings: Jeremiah 11:19-20, Psalm 7:1-2, 9-12, John 7:40-52

Good Morning, Fellow Pilgrims

Today I hope and prayed that you have settled into some rhythm of the unknown. You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers. I truly pray that these few lines of the text help your meditations and reflections.

The text in John’s gospel today confirms that there were diverse opinions and much confusion among the people regarding Jesus. So it is also with us. Everyone has something different to say in particular if we speak from a place of power!!

The relatives thought something (Jn 7:2-5) !
People thought something different (Jn 7:12)!
Some said: “He is a prophet!” (Jn 7:40)!
Others said: “He leads the people astray!” (Jn 7:12)!
Some praised Him: “He is a good man!” (Jn 7:12)!
Others criticized Him: “He has not been educated, has not studied!” (Jn 7:15)!

Do we take time to discern truth from fiction? Do we in our own lives and situations discern if where we find ourselves is where God wills? In the text no one seemed to remember or even discern the Messiah Servant, announced by Isaiah (Is 42:1-9; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13; 53:12; 61:1-2).

Even today we find much discussion and as in the past, it happens many times that the *little ones* are deceived by the discourses of the *great ones*.

It is always important to understand the full picture, and not be led astray by personal interpretations or the person sitting next to us. It is a personal responsibility to seek and learn every day, while discerning the authenticity, history, and meaning of what we see, hear, or find.

Nicodemus in this text emerges and he raises his voice to defend Jesus: “But surely our Law does not allow us to pass judgment on anyone without first giving him a hearing and discovering what He is doing?”

The reaction to Nicodemus is one of mocking him: “Nicodemus are you also from Galilee? Look at the Bible and you will see for yourself that prophets do not arise in Galilee!” They are sure! Holding the book of the past, they defend themselves against the future which arrives and disturbs them.

While in this time and having our own opinions how do we discern without deceiving ourselves and others. Do we see the bigger picture? Do we if we discover it, stand up to defend it, or do we defend ourselves against it because we are afraid of what the future will hold for us personally?

“O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind..” (Jeremiah 11:20). It is “to you, have I come for shelter...”(Psalm 7:1)

Pray

*Today, O God of all days,
give me an experience of your heart.
Draw me deep into your very being,
into the core of your love for me, others, and the world.
Give me a glimpse of others the way you see others:
loving them, forgiving them,
and delighting in the way they give glory to God
through their very existence.
Help me to discern out of that open place of deep affection
so that I too might be a useful vessel of your love in the world.*

- Author Unknown