

Day Sixty Four

Friday in Ascension-tide, 29 May 2020

Reading: Acts 25: 13-21, Psalm 103: 1-2, 19-22, Gospel Reading: John 21: 15-19

Good morning dear friends

Something bitter sweet always happens when Jesus and His companions are surrounded by others and a meal. Thousands are fed, deep convictions and teachings are taught, and suddenly people are intrigued. People are made aware of their own shortcomings; the disciple's feet are washed.

Judas had made up his mind to betray his friend during their meal and Simon Peter was shocked after the Lord blessed his bread and his wine. He would never deny his Lord.

It was after they had breakfast that something bitter sweet happened again. Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Do you love me more than these?"

Scholars wonder who these were, if they were the disciples or if Jesus was referring to Simon Peter's previous employment of being a fisherman since he was eager to be back at sea. Scholars also try and discern what type of love Jesus was referring to because the Greek language suggests that whilst Simon Peter spoke of an affectionate love, Jesus referred twice to a sacrificial love (Gary Burge, 2012, p. 1163).

Biblical scholars seek these answers and find that it can be either or. The fact remains that something bitter sweet happened after breakfast. Jesus posed a question and Simon Peter had to answer. Jesus asked this question three times and it was with his third question that Simon Peter is challenged by his own feelings.

He is hurt that Jesus would ask him a third time, after all Jesus already knew everything!

When we know that Christ knows everything, we can completely and utterly be ourselves truthfully, even when it hurts. Simon Peter's walk with Jesus was indeed different and when they had dinner that night Simon Peter thought that he could tell Jesus but I do love you, after Jesus had said you will deny me.

It was after the resurrection that Simon Peter believed whole heartedly. Jesus was right the first time, he did deny him. Jesus was right about salvation, he experienced it and so when Jesus asks a third time Simon Peter do you love me, because Simon Peter believes whole heartedly he can say with confidence, "Lord you know everything, you know that I do love you"

Let us pray:

“O God, by thy mercy strengthen us who lie exposed to the rough storms of troubles and temptations. Help us against our own negligence and cowardice, and defend us from the treachery of our unfaithful hearts. Succour us, we beseech thee, and bring us to thy safe haven of peace and felicity.”

St Augustine