



Weekly Wednesday Homily

8 July 2020

Readings: Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12, Psalm 105: 1-7, Gospel Reading: Matthew 10: 1-7

Good morning friends

It has become more apparent during this time that many people have different views, religions, cultures, languages, dressing styles, cuisines and the list could go on. Social media, the television set, reading materials and newspapers have so much information and we have time to watch, to read and to listen to everything that is put out there because we have the time.

We can longer resume to the things we used to do before the lockdown and we may have even created for ourselves innovative ways of keeping busy.

The peak of the virus is on its way and we may be frightened, paranoia levels may be heightened. We see it in the way people drive (they hardly stop at the stop street), the impatience in stores and pharmacies. There is another atmosphere in the air and well I don't know whether people should be despondent, stay at home and not resume to certain activities, or go out and continue being normal as long as you wear a mask and sanitize or switch off the news because it is sickening how underlying racism, gender based violence, the economy, the rising of petrol prices, and bad things just seem to take on a whole new meaning of "normal".

We also have those who feel the need to evangelize during this time, take the opportunity to spread the word of God, take the opportunity to make money off the poor because suddenly, you can buy an "anointed mask" for 800bucks. I have heard that Covid is demonic. I have heard that the amount of deaths could never be something ordained by God. I have heard that this is the time for restoration and may be a sign of apocalyptic times. Chaos, if you ask me, who do we listen to?

During the time of Jesus' ministry although no TV's and Facebook, these were the kinds of things that people were facing. Diseases, gender based violence, racism believe it or not, war, poverty, hopelessness, false prophesying and I don't think people knew what it was that they had to do. Do I step outside during these times? Or do I remain home to avoid all of the drama? Who do I listen to? Everybody suddenly knows what it is that God wants!

Then Jesus says to his disciples, “Go, I am sending you, not to the Gentiles or the Samaritans but to the lost sheep of the house Israel”.

I always wondered why not to the Gentiles? Why not to the Samaritans? What was wrong with them? Didn't they need to hear about the kingdom of heaven as well?

The house of Israel had to be cleaned out and brought to order first before they could ever proclaim the kingdom of heaven.

It's like saying to an atheist “You have to give your heart to Jesus because you need saving.” And that same atheist responding saying, “well isn't your brother a Christian? And didn't he steal from the municipality, but Jesus has saved him? You expect me to believe in a God like that!”

The Israelites knew that the kingdom of heaven existed but were they doing a good job at proclaiming the God of the kingdom of heaven, perhaps not.

Is this why outsiders like Gentiles and Samaritans were first excluded? Was it because the house of Israel itself was not in order? Complete chaos back then, is this why Jesus overturned the tables in the synagogue and shouted, “You have turned my father's house of prayer into a hideout for thieves!”(Matthew 21: 12-13)

It saddens me that the house of Israel is still not in order. Christians want to evangelise to non-Christians but our own house is not in order. Like the introduction and almost the whole body of this homily, we are living in chaos because it is much easier to point fingers, than to sit at the feet of Jesus and ask, “Where should we go first?”

Perhaps the time is now to go to the house of Israel, to our own that have lost their way, to people that we know are doing wrong, to hold Christians accountable and say, “The kingdom of heaven is near!” We have to make sure our own house is in order first, ourselves, our families, our communities and then ask Jesus, “has the time come for me to go the Gentiles? Or is there more that needs to be done in the house of Israel?”

“Speak, Lord, for they servant heareth. Grant us ears to hear, eyes to see, wills to obey, hearts to love; then declare what Thou wilt, reveal what Thou wilt, command what Thou wilt, demand what Thou wilt.”

Christina Rossetti