

2nd Sunday of Easter - Homily

By: Fr. Paul Magyar

John 20:19-31

The disciples have locked the doors due to fear. This reflects: The Shepherd was struck and the flock was scattered. One thing to note is that Jesus always appears to them on a Sunday. Jesus appears in his resurrected form in the body of His human life, however it was not subject to the ordinary conditions of human life. Jesus' greeting: "Peace be with you..." is understood in ancient Hebraic society as the voice from the darkness beyond the grave, the message of the conqueror of death. Jesus shows the disciples his hands and side and sends them to do great Works. The emphasis on right action to teach and proclaim forgiveness. Jesus breathes on them. This action of Christ goes back to Genesis 2:7 where God breathes life into Adam. The disciples are the new creation of humanity. Jesus emphasizes the promise of forgiveness wherever there is repentance from sin. The people who choose not to admit to having sins in their lives are the one's who retain their repentance. Forgiveness of sins cannot happen for that individual if they choose not to repent. How much evidence is required for one to repent or truly believe ?

Thomas the disciple was not there, he did not believe the disciples that Jesus appeared to them. He demanded greater proof than their testimony. Thomas chooses not to believe. He retains his faith.

Next Sunday the disciples were all together again. We see that the early church from the beginning observed Sunday as the Lord's day. Thomas was in danger of passing from the state of a believer in Christ to that of an unbeliever. His demand for the evidence was a step backwards. Jesus rescues Thomas from drowning in his doubt. Jesus makes Thomas place his hands in his wounds. Thomas expresses a sense of shame for his unbelief. It kind of mirrors Adam's shame when he hides from God in the garden of Eden after he disobeys God's command. The difference is that Thomas wakes up quickly from his darkness of doubt and declares his faith: my Lord and my God. The Church is founded upon Apostolic witnesses, however the faith of the Church must ever be in the unseen. This is why Jesus blesses all members of the future church who have not seen and yet have believed. This includes us and generations after us.

Praying for you, Fr Paul Magyar