

What Am I Doing to Spread God's Love?

Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Ps. 67; Rev. 21: 10-14; Jn. 14: 23-29

In the Gospel for this Sunday, we read about Jesus preparing His disciples for His departure to return to the Father. Jesus knew that they would be upset and afraid. The disciples were a fledgling group and under the threat of persecution by the Jewish leaders, not to speak of the Romans.

Jesus had led them, taught them everything they knew about the Kingdom of God, and performed miracles that gave them a taste of God's glory. He had loved them and they had loved Him. And now, He was going to leave them. How could He do this? What were they to do in His absence?

It was like having a big brother, someone you loved and looked up to your whole life, leaving to go to college or to work in a different city. Your advisor and defender was leaving. You were afraid. You didn't feel ready to fend for yourself.

Jesus knew how the disciples were feeling so He said: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.' He also said to them: 'If you loved Me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father because the Father is greater than I.' St. Leo the Great explained this statement thusly: *He who in His humanity is undeniably less than the Father, is equal to the Father in His divinity.*

And why should the disciples be rejoicing at Jesus' return to the Father rather than being afraid? Because when Jesus departed, the Father would send the Holy Spirit to dwell in their hearts to complete the teaching ministry of Jesus. Also, Jesus said that He was going ahead of them to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. (Jn. 14: 2, 3) If He did not go to join His Father, the gates of heaven would remain closed to them.

This is the message for all of us. We remain in the Easter season and we rejoice. Although we do not see Jesus, He assures us that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts to gently but continually turn us toward God by reminding us of His teachings.

Sometimes, the Holy Spirit may prompt us in a certain direction, toward our sanctification, but we resist out of our human nature. When we resist, the Holy Spirit does not force us but, rather, waits patiently and lovingly for us to cooperate with Him and to yield our souls to His sanctifying action.

In the Collect, we pray the following words:

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance, we may always hold to in what we do.

Let us not only remember the Easter Joy brought about by the Resurrection of Jesus, but also let us live out that joy in our deeds. God showed His love for us by sending His Son to die for our sins. Both God the Father and God the Son took an unmerited action that showed their love for us.

The question we should ask ourselves is: *What am I doing to bring the words of the Collect to life by spreading the love of God to others?*