

Do you wish to see Jesus, too?

Jeremiah 31:31-34. Gospel, John 12:20-33

“We wish to see Jesus”, some Greeks asked Philip. They were in Jerusalem for the great festival, like so many other Jews living outside Israel.

They must have heard about the miracles worked by the Rabbi from Nazareth, as well as his challenging preaching and words of wisdom. They wanted to see for themselves; they were either curious or perhaps sincere in their search for life’s meaning.

Certainly Jesus’ response was not what they expected: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it. And those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

Jesus is the grain of wheat that falls into the earth and dies! Like the grain of wheat that disappears into the earth, Jesus also dies and is buried so that He may rise to new life and share his new life with those who will accept to follow him, and to lose their life for his sake.

But those who prefer to keep their life in this world without Jesus, are like the single grain that does not go into the ground, but dries up and does not bear any fruit: they lose their life forever.

Jesus’ response to the Greeks is the summary of the paradox which He speaks of, throughout his public ministry: to conquer death is to allow oneself to be swallowed by it; to see Christ is to wait that He disappears; the hour of triumph is the hour of his execution; to live is to die; gaining is losing!

Do we find this disheartening?

But we know that the Good Friday does not have the last word, because it leads to Resurrection Sunday for Jesus and for all who follow Him to the end, who trust the truth of his response to the Greeks!

We should know by now, that God goes after his people, in order to enter in Love relationship with them. That is why, as we read in today’s Book of Jeremiah, rather than penalizing them for their disobedience, God presents them with a New Covenant: God will be their God, and they will be His people. He asks the people to keep the law which He will “write” not on tablets of stone, but in their very hearts.

Jesus not only writes his commandment of Love in our hearts, but He himself lives in our hearts, particularly in the Eucharist.

DO YOU WISH TO SEE JESUS, TOO?

Come on over. In this Sacrament you can see Him, touch Him, receive Him, and BECOME ONE with Him!