



Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Easter (C)

May 8, 2022

The Dangers of Jealousy

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Paul and Barnabas were preaching to the Jewish people in synagogues, but today’s reading reveals why they changed audiences and began preaching to the Gentiles. After initial interest was shown by the Jews, their leaders became jealous and stirred up a persecution against the apostles.

Jealousy is a powerful thing. It deafens us from perceiving the good things God wants to give us through others and turns our neighbor into an enemy. It makes us critical, unsatisfied, bitter, and discouraged. Rather than find support in our brother or sister, we lose that gift

and alienate ourselves. God and peace are never found in jealousy.

As a result, God sent Paul and Barnabas to preach to the Gentiles and to bring his good news to souls who were open to hearing his voice. Humility is the virtue that helps us see the good of others and appreciate it as if it were our own.

The good shepherd was speaking to his flock and wanted to lead them to greener pastures, but only the humble were able to hear him and be led to those springs of life-giving water.

Beware of the dangers of jealousy and pride that make us rebellious sheep who are unable to be led and taught by those who love us most. We think we know better than God, his word, and his Church, separating from the flock and the shepherd. May God grant us a listening and humble heart, open to discovering his truth through the Good Shepherd who constantly wants to speak it to us. +

Sunday Readings

Acts 13:14, 43–52

When the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and with violent abuse contradicted what Paul said.

Revelation 7:9, 14b–17

I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

John 10:27–30

[Jesus said,] “My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

Jealousy is a powerful thing. It deafens us from perceiving the good things God wants to give us.

A Word from Pope Francis

A world that looks to the future without a mother’s gaze is shortsighted. It may well increase its profits, but it will no longer see others as children....The human family is built upon mothers. A world in which maternal tenderness is dismissed as mere sentiment may be rich materially, but poor where the future is concerned.

Homily, January 1, 2019



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Is jealousy keeping me from being truly happy about another’s good fortune?
- Have I counted my blessings with a grateful heart?

Here's Jesus, Here's Me: What's the Diff?

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Once heard a homilist suggest the simplest of exercises to keep us on the right path. He said we should look at Jesus and then look at ourselves and notice the difference.

I'm reminded of those activity books my young granddaughter likes—the ones with word finds, mazes, connect the dots, and so on. There's one activity we like to do together that we call, "What's the Diff?" There are two almost identical



pictures, and we race each other to identify the slight differences. She very often beats me—young eyes, open mind.

What if we listened to the Gospel with the intention

of playing "What's the Diff?" We would have to listen attentively in order to form a clear picture of Jesus. We would have to listen with the open mind of a child.

On Holy Thursday —

- Here's Jesus, kneeling before each of his disciples, washing their feet.
- Here's Jesus, presenting himself in the simplest of elements, offering himself as bread broken, as wine poured out, willing to be consumed in order to serve us and save us.

Here's Jesus. Here's me. What's the diff?

On Good Friday —

- Here's Jesus, rejecting the violence of Peter's sword even to protect himself from those who would send him to a horrific death.
- Here's Jesus, standing before his accusers without protest or defense.
- Here's Jesus, carrying his cross, accepting help and comfort from those who love him, struggling on, even while he feels abandoned.
- Here's Jesus, hanging on the cross, in pain, but still forgiving those who have so harmed him.

Here's Jesus. Here's me. What's the diff?

On the Sundays of Easter —

- Here's Jesus, his tomb empty, leaving the trappings of death behind and rising to new life.
- Here's Jesus, appearing to his frightened disciples, offering peace, spreading calm and confidence.
- Here's Jesus, simply serving breakfast on the seashore, loving and asking only for our love and that we love each other.
- Here's Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the one who watches out for the little, the lost, the ones who don't matter in this world.
- Here's Jesus, praying for us, longing for us to be one people, one family, his brothers and sisters.

Here's Jesus. Here's me. What's the diff?

And all year long —

Here's Jesus, teaching us, exhorting us:

- to believe, even when it seems like nonsense, even when those who have been examples of faith disappoint us; to believe the impossible;
- to stop grabbing and clutching and instead to let go of the unnecessary, to share with others, to live simply so that others may simply live;
- to recognize everyone placed on our path as our neighbor;
- to seek to be last, to put others first, to serve instead of waiting to be served;
- to forgive, even our enemies, even those who have so hurt us so much that we think we'll never recover.

Here's Jesus. Here's me. What's the diff?

We'll never be Jesus, but this exercise—practiced as a daily examination of conscience—might take our focus off the faults of others and help us grow in holiness.



*Risen Lord, give me the courage
to be a loving shepherd
and advocate for the poor
and vulnerable.*

From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 9–14

Monday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 11:1–18 / Jn 10:1–10

Tuesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 11:19–26 / Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 12:24—13:5a / Jn 12:44–50

Thursday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:13–25 / Jn 13:16–20

Friday, Easter Weekday:

Acts 13:26–33 / Jn 14:1–6

Saturday, St. Matthias, Apostle:

Acts 1:15–17, 20–26 / Jn 15:9–17

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

May 8, 2022

© 2022 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. One Liguori Drive, Liguori, MO 63057. Scripture quotations in this publication are from the *New American Bible*, revised edition, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2022 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.