

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Acts 8:5-8,14-17*

◆ **Second Reading:** *1 Peter 3:15-18*

◆ **Gospel:** *John 14:15-21*

How seriously do you and I take the Word of God (the “WORD” refers to all that is written in the Bible, also referred to as Holy Scripture, the Word of Truth..) ; at every Mass we listen to the readings, the psalm is read out, verse by verse, and we respond to the psalm with a responsorial, to-day’s responsorial is “CRY OUT WITH JOY TO GOD ALL THE EARTH”, “but” says you, “how could anyone cry out with joy to God when the entire earth is going thru’ a pandemic”??, this mysterious virus that has many of us in a state of anxiety, unemployed, bored, feeling down or worse, “joyful”!!, certainly not ; The responsorial in these present circumstances would sound more appropriate with the words “CRY OUT WITH ANGUISH TO GOD ALL THE EARTH”

But the Word of God is a life giving word, we need to listen to it with Faith, we need to take it in, and reflect on it ; the Word may mean different things for different believers. Some of us may seek comfort from the written Word, or guidance or encouragement, depending on what’s dominating our lives ;

In to-day’s Gospel reading from st.John 14 ; 15 – 21, Our Lord pronounces great words of comfort to his disciples, he says to them **I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS ; I WILL COME BACK TO YOU. IN A SHORT TIME THE WORLD WILL NO LONGER SEE ME, BUT YOU WILL SEE ME, BECAUSE I LIVE AND YOU WILL LIVE**

There's no denying that presently in this virus many of us feel like "orphans", it's as though the Lord-of-Life has gone away somewhere, perhaps to another planet!! or so it seems ; but the Word of the Lord must be received with Faith, and not with doubts ; Jesus specifically says **I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS, I WILL COME BACK TO YOU ;**

So what can we take to our hearts from these few words?? the Lord is not far, he is aware of our present predicament and all the pain that goes with it ; just HOW the Lord will "come back to us" is his own business, remembering once again that the ways of God are not the ways of the world ; but in the meantime, and leaving aside all the pain attached to the consequences of the pandemic, there are refreshing signs of good things happening, "what things"??, well! for what it's worth, isn't it pleasant to hear the birds singing in the early morning and later on during the day?, the air we breath is cleaner, noise levels have decreased, the traffic flow has greatly diminished, we can enjoy our walks more with less traffic on the roads, and for many of us we can reach out and be a life line to those who are struggling for company, food and reassurance. The brighter more loving side of humanity is expressing itself everywhere, surely the Lord-of-Life is there in the midst of it all ; stay healthy, be at peace, pray and persevere.....

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