

April 24, 2016

5th Sunday of Easter

Love one another!

Acts 14:21-27

Psalm 145:8-13

Revelation 21:1-5a

John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Paul and Barnabus left Antioch after they had made a considerable number of disciples. They returned to strengthen the spirits of other disciples and exhorted them to persevere in faith. They reminded them, "It is necessary to undergo many hardships to enter the kingdom of God." They appointed elders in various locations with prayer and fasting and told of how the Lord had opened the doors of faith to the Gentiles.

The psalmist tells his listeners that the Lord is gracious and merciful, is good to all, is compassionate, and his dominion endures through all generations. The faithful ones are to bless the Lord, speak of his might, and acknowledge the glory of his kingdom that lasts for all ages.

John saw, in his vision, a new heaven and earth, the New Jerusalem, a holy city, coming out of heaven from God. The old order will pass away and everything is made new by God who will dwell with the faithful. All tears will be wiped away and there will be no more death, mourning, wailing, or pain.

Jesus, the Son of Man, is glorified and God is glorified in him. He gives a new commandment to the disciples, namely that they are to love one another, and that this is to be their mark of recognition, how they will be recognized as Jesus' disciples.

**The Father is glorified in the Son, The Son in the Father.
The Holy Spirit is glorified in both.**

Jesus tells us clearly that Christians are to be identified by their love for every living, breathing human being and that race, color, or creed are not to be used as discriminators. Many people who have lived careless and sinful lives have become compassionate and faithful in their conversions sparked by the love of Jesus Christ. The one who does not love does not know God because God is love.

Love

Love is good in every way,
It leads us to seek that which is more perfect.
Love cannot be constrained and grows beyond all boundaries.
Love does not feel heavy burdens, thinks lightly of labors,
aims beyond its strength,
complains not of impossible tasks,
Love is consequently capable of any task and will succeed
Where those who do not love fail.
Love keeps guard over the senses, it is steadfast and serene,
It is not self-seeking.
Love is always aware and does not slumber.
Even if wearied it will not wear out,
Even if disturbed it will not be alarmed,
And like a flame will rise upward and pass to higher things.

(Adapted from Imitations, Book 3, Chapt.5)

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