

June 10, 2018 Tenth Sunday

When lifted up Jesus will draw everyone to himself!

1Gn 3:9-15

Psalm 130:1-8

2Cor:4:13-5:1

Mark 3:20-35

After Adam had eaten the forbidden fruit, given to him by the woman, the Lord God called out to the man and asked him three questions: "Where are you?", "Who told you that you were naked?", "Have you been eating of the forbidden tree?" Adam was hiding, ashamed of being naked, and pointed to the woman who he said gave him the fruit. To the woman he asked a fourth: "Why did you do such a thing?". She said it was the serpent who tricked her into eating it. Each of them tried to shift the responsibility even though each shared personal responsibility. There is no questioning of the serpent, either to its origin or motive.



The psalmist is in the midst of harsh suffering but is still hopeful in his pleading. He acknowledges that the Lord is merciful, kind, forgiving, and is therefore to be revered. He has unwavering faith in the lord's plenteous redemption.

Suffering is also acknowledged in the second reading by noting the body may waste away but a higher healing is taking place within the inner self giving an eventual glory beyond any earthly comparisons. It is the eternal unseen, the heavenly building created by God that awaits beyond any earthly dwelling.

In the Gospel Jesus experiences various encounters: the crowd surrounds him in order to hear him and be healed; his family members believe that he is out of control and seek to protect him; religious leaders claim he is "possessed" as they fear his popularity and seek to downgrade his teaching. Jesus makes it clear that those who refuse to accept the power of God's Holy Spirit at work commit an unforgivable sin, while those who choose to do God's will are with him.

The Father questions the man and woman,
The leading scribes question Jesus,
The Holy Spirit's answer is
See what He does and believe!

The episode in the garden is a prelude to the suffering Adam and Eve will encounter upon their eviction. The psalmist understands his suffering and is hopeful for relief from our merciful God. The Corinthians are reminded that the body ages, is weakened, and there will be suffering on that account, but more importantly, the inner self is continually renewed. The crowds press in on Jesus to receive his healing and so alleviate their sufferings. Jesus suffers from those who misunderstand or refuse to try and understand his mission to the people but he continues to give clear and concise answers.

The Saints of God and the friends of Christ Jesus look not to ephemeral things of this life but place their hopes in things eternal, in the *inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy*.(Luke 12:33) They think of what is above, not of what is on earth (Col3:2) of things invisible, in order that the visible do not hinder their good intentions. They look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. (2Cor4:18). (Adapted from Imitations, Book 1, Chapter22.)

The Call



What if you come upon the angel with fiery sword guarding the portal to the deep unknowns of your mind? Adam and Eve were turned away, the guard set in place, why should you be allowed to enter?



Isaiah's mouth was touched by a burning ember carried by seraphim from the highest altar, his wickedness removed, his sin purged, before he could enter and speak anew.

Jeremiah said he did not know how to speak. The Lord stretched out his hand and touched his mouth, "My words," he said, "are now placed in your mouth." These words now carry "my power."

The words of Amos, a sheep-farmer, came in a vision and he prophesied to Israel before the earthquake, so devastating that no one shall get away, so catastrophic that not a single survivor shall escape.

Daniel persistently prayed and fasted and Archangel Gabriel came to bring him understanding. He fell in weakness, was strengthened by one touch While the second touch to his lips gave power to prophecy.

Paul was surrounded by Light and blinded for three days, And then given sight with the mission To turn the people from darkness to light, From the dominion of Satan to the dominion of God.

To enter the portal is to be given light that overcomes the darkness of death and opens a hidden way to travel from light to Light, A continuous purification that calls for patience.

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