

Have I been with you all this time, and you have not recognized me?

Acts 6:1-7

Psalm 33

1Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

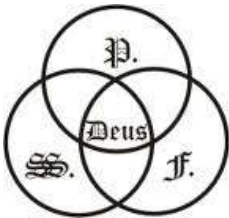
In the first reading the twelve call together the community and select seven reputable and spirit-filled disciples to make sure the needs of the community are met. The hands of the Apostles are laid upon them and they are prayerfully given their mission. The number of faithful grew, and the word spread.

The Psalmist notes that the Lord loves justice and right and he fills the world with kindness. The just are to exult in the Lord, while the upright give fitting praise. Hope for kindness from the Lord and seek deliverance and remember the Lord's eyes are upon those who stand in awe and reverence of him.

In the second reading Peter exhorts his listeners to come to Jesus, the living stone rejected by humans but precious in God's eyes. The faithful are being built into a spiritual house and will never be put to shame. We are called out of darkness into light and those without faith find our stepping stones to be stumbling blocks and they stumble because they disobey the word.

In the Gospel Jesus emphasizes the importance of not being troubled over everyday problems. The Father's house has many dwelling places and Jesus prepares a place for each one of us. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life and we approach the Father through him. The Father and Jesus are one and the Father speaks through Jesus. Furthermore the disciples are instructed to continue the work of Jesus and are to expect accomplishments by the power of the Father working through the name of Jesus.

The Father shows us the Way,  
The Son exemplifies the Truth,  
The Holy Spirit gives us Life.  
One in Three, Three in One.



It is indeed a mystery when Jesus says he is in the Father and the Father is in him. And yet, this is what Jesus says in response to Philip who asks to show him the Father. The words of the Father speak through Jesus; the works of the Father are accomplished through him. Together they are one in essence, one in intention, one in accomplishment. We see and learn of the Father through Jesus, in Jesus, and with Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit.

Pray that your faith be strengthened and seek Jesus' guidance so that you can find your place in the spiritual house God is building.

### Think About It

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher. He's either be a lunatic - on the level with a man who says he's a poached egg - or else he'd be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the **Son of God**, or else a madman or something worse. (C.S. Lewis, *The Case for Christianity*.)

# Think

There have been a number of recent political commentaries relating to the covid-19 virus pandemic indicating that we should have no qualms about sacrificing the elderly for the sake of the economy. "As a species" someone wrote, "these deaths would alleviate strain on our country's healthcare and Social Security systems and free up jobs and housing".

What do you think?

I was sitting in my car waiting for my daughter to come out of a store when I noticed an elderly woman putting her groceries away and then returning her cart to the storage area...as well as several others doing the same. Then there was a young man who simply left his cart by the car and drove off; a little later an older woman was returning her cart and then picked up the one he left, returning both. We take for granted and often forget the kind deeds, good works, and thoughtfulness of the elderly.

Varda Yoran, was a recent guest writer for Huffing Post, and wrote an article, "Just Because I'm 90 Doesn't Mean I'm Ready To Die — Or Disposable; As long as I'm still creative ... as long as I still enjoy life, nobody has the right to write me off." She continues: I've been a senior citizen for a quarter of a century and I still sculpt, read and write essays. I speak five languages, and I use email and WhatsApp to communicate with family and friends in Finland, China, Norway, England, Israel, Russia, Thailand and throughout the U.S. I run a foundation I created that assists immobile seniors. I attend classes, and I'm organizing a philosophy club via Zoom that discusses ethics, forgiveness, anger, creativity and various other topics.

Genesis tells us the Abram (who became Abraham) was 75 when he set out with Sarai and Lot for the land of Canaan. Abraham was 100 when Isaac was born. Deuteronomy says that Moses was 120 at his death.

Commodore Vanderbilt added 100 million dollars to his fortune between the ages of 75 and 83.

Kant wrote his philosophical masterpiece at 74.

Tintoretto painted his biggest and most famous canvas when he was 75.

Verdi was 85 when he wrote "Ave Maria"

Cato decided to study Greek when he was 80.

Goethe was also 80 when he finished *Faust*.

Titian painted his historic "The Battle of Lepanto" when he was 96.

Tony Bennett won a Grammy at 77. A number of years ago Marv Levy was hired as the Buffalo Bill's General Manager and he was 80. Ralph Wilson, owner, 87, at the time, says Marv only looks about 70, and his IQ is probably twice that.

Ronald Regan was President at 78. Thurmond served in the Senate at 100. When the democrats took over the House and Senate in 2006, key committee chairs were of ages: 72,74,63(Biden who is now running for president),78,66,77,88,68,74,61,65,57.

Unfortunately, employer's attitudes toward older workers are mixed and the Federal Government receives 15,000 to 20,000 discrimination complaints in a year.

The Discrimination Act enacted in 1967 protected workers from mandatory retirement until age 65; in 1978 it was raised to 70 and then age was eliminated in 1986.

The Bible has some interesting examples of old age as noted above, and others as well. When Eleazar, one of the foremost scribes, a man of advanced age and noble appearance, was threatened with torture and death *he made up his mind in a noble manner, worthy of his years, the dignity of his advanced age, the merited distinction of his gray hair, and of the admirable life he had lived from childhood; and so he declared that above all he would be loyal to the holy laws given by God.*(2Mc 6:20-24)

An older person may look back and feel life has been wasted and not much accomplished. But there is an interesting parable told by Jesus concerning laborers in a vineyard (Matthew 20:1-13) that offers hope. Workers were hired by the owner early in the morning, the 3rd hour, the 6th hour, the 9th hour and the 11th hour. Those brought in last were paid first, a reversal of the sequence in which they were hired. Expectations were simply shattered as the owner was so generous as to pay those who worked the least hours the same wage as those who worked the complete day. Now imagine the work in the vineyard your life's work and consider the payoff! A clear message that the Almighty does not discriminate against age and his call to come to the Father holds without fail where ever you are, whatever your age, and whatever your past is, so simply forget the time constraints and do the best you can and the Holy Spirit will guide you.

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