

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
November 25, 2018
“The Truth of Jesus”

Dan 7:13-14
Rev 1:5-8
Jn 18:33-37

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

It is truly tragic the way our media and those in positions of power distort the truth to further their own agenda. We can see this, especially, in the ways that news commentators slant the facts to bolster their opinion and viewpoint. They espouse half-truths – They leave things out of their presentation – They use quotes out of context – And, sometimes, they just flat-out lie! Furthermore, they do this with impunity!

Unfortunately, I’m afraid that this is a fundamental flaw of human nature that we all possess. We are all more or less guilty of compromising the truth to serve our own ends, frequently enough. It’s just that the damage we do is limited to those around us. Nevertheless, it often does affect those we love.

Truth is one of the three marvelous attributes of God. It co-exists in God with goodness and beauty. If we are truthful ourselves, we will do good and noble things. And in that process, we discover beauty – both in others – and, surprisingly, in ourselves!

In order to lead us from lies and deception – In order to deliver us from our darkest selves – In order to bring us to the truth, goodness, and beauty in Himself – God sent His Son in Jesus of Nazareth.

During the terrible persecution 150 years before Christ, the faithful Hebrews needed hope. Thus, the Book of Daniel was written to show that God is the master of all history – of time past, present, and future. Somehow, God uses everything – even the evil in the world – to prepare for the establishment of His kingdom. And Jesus is the one who, ultimately, established it in a definitive way!

Today, the passage from Daniel teaches us that, as the Son of Man, Jesus is

our champion. No matter what happens in the world around us or in our lives – Jesus reigns supreme. The Son of Man is an image of who Jesus actually is as God-Man – and what his role is in the entire universe!

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is on trial for the truth. The Jewish leadership cannot accept the truth of his words or the validity of his actions. They had closed their minds and hearts to all that God was trying to reveal in Jesus – that Jesus was someone much more than he seemed to be on the surface.

In his dialogue with Jesus, Pilate can't understand why Jesus is so hated by the leadership. Jesus, certainly, does not seem to be any kind of real threat! Consequently, Pilate asks Jesus if he really is a king. And Jesus replies that he is, indeed, a king. However, his kingdom is not of this world – nor of its politics or its power.

His is the kingdom of truth – of God's truth. It is the truth that leads to goodness – and to the interior freedom to appreciate beauty in every form in this world and in God! Furthermore, those who are open to the supreme truth which is in God, will hear what Jesus has to say and will implement it in their hearts and lives!

Unfortunately, the Jewish leadership failed. Pilate failed. And Jesus was crucified because they all failed to recognize or acknowledge the truth which was before them!

Finally, the Book of Revelation reveals marvelous truths about Jesus, about us, and about God Himself. Jesus is the faithful witness to the truth – He is the first one to rise from the dead – He is supreme over all kings and those with political power – even though they don't know it.

Furthermore, Jesus has made every one of us priests – provided that we hear and obey God's truth! As priests, we offer worship to God – As priests, we become witnesses of God's truth to those around us – We do so by imitating the truth, goodness, and beauty of a life in Jesus, himself!

And so, Brothers and Sisters, let us pray, today, always to stand for the truth of God – for His goodness – and for His beauty – for God who is the “Alpha and the Omega” – for “the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the almighty”!

Amen.

November 25, 2018

Msgr. Russell G. Terra

