

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
April 18, 2021  
“Wholeness and Fullness of Life”

Acts 3:13...19  
1 Jn 2:1-5  
Lk 24:35-48

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Why do so many political leaders lie or withhold the truth about what they have done or not done? Why do so many people cheat or take unfair advantage of others if they think they will not get caught? Why are so many in our Western World and culture so avid about acquiring more and more material things?

One answer is that we want our life to be perfect – And if not perfect – at least the very best it can be!

We all make mistakes in seeking the perfect life – We all make bad decisions in order to get what we want. Thus, we all sin. But, unfortunately, far too many of us are not honest. We won't admit our mistakes. We attempt to cover up our mistakes, our sins, our bad choices. And whenever we do so, we pay a price!

Sooner or later, the truth is discovered and we lose whatever we were trying to protect. The governors of two of our most populous states have discovered this. Even our elected national leaders have barricaded themselves behind high fencing and razor wire because they mistakenly fear something that will not happen!

What every human being seeks is wholeness and fullness of life. We desire to be physically and emotionally developed and mature. We also want to enjoy life in comfort and peace.

However, these things are never completely realizable here. We are imperfect creatures. We are subject to pain, suffering, and death. Moreover, no material thing can ever fill that for which our souls and spirits have been created!

In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter reminds the assembled people of the mistake, the bad decision, the sin – of what they had done. Both the leadership and the people were guilty. They wanted to preserve the status quo. They wanted no trouble or inconvenience. They thought they could have a wholeness and fullness of life here.

So they crucified the one whom God had sent to deliver them from this world, but give them what they desired. They crucified Jesus who came to inaugurate the Reign of God and bring them to the Kingdom of Heaven! Sadly, they did not know or understand the plan of God.

They were ignorant. They could not imagine God's love for them – nor His willingness to forgive. However, they would have to change. They would have to make amends. They would have to admit their mistakes. They must become sorry for their sins, truly convert their hearts, and change their lives!

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus appears to his disciples as they hid together from the authorities. No doubt, they mourned the death of Jesus and all their terrible failures. They had betrayed Jesus, denied him, and had run away in their cowardice.

It was when they were at their lowest that Jesus appeared to them in all his physical and emotional wholeness. He was also able to enjoy a glorified fullness of life as he ate with them! Furthermore, besides giving them his peace, he commissioned them to be witnesses for him and for all he said and did, fulfilled, and promised.

They were to go out into the whole world and proclaim what was possible for everyone – for all of suffering humanity – It was that wholeness and fullness of life was possible in the Kingdom of God. It was that God understood the pain and the suffering that everyone experiences. It was that God understood what it was like to lose everything here – in death. It was that death is not the end, but that it could be the beginning of complete wholeness and fullness of life in the presence of a God of love!

In today's second reading, St. John reminds us that saying that we know Jesus, or God, – or believe in them – is never enough. In fact, we are liars – the truth is not in us – if we don't keep God's Commandments.

Many of our elected leaders have failed in this, because they want to protect themselves and their own interests. Often, we fail, ourselves, for the same reasons. We are untruthful; we do not do what we should for others – And our sin is our failure to live up to all that God expects of us.

Brothers and Sisters, we can never achieve complete wholeness and fullness of life here, in this world. But it is ours in the Kingdom of Heaven if we embrace Jesus, his Gospel, and all that God asks of us.

Let us pray that we can be up to this most wonderful calling and gift from God. And may God's plan for each of us be, ultimately, fulfilled!

Amen.

April 18, 2021

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