

**Sixth Sunday of Easter -C - 2019**  
**Acts 15.1-2,22-29///Rev.21.10-14,22-23///John14.23-29**

→there once was an elderly rabbi who spent a considerable amount of time every day praying at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem.

→one day a vendor in charge of a souvenir booth near the wall asked him...  
“Rabbi Aaron...what do you pray for every day at the wall?”

→the rabbi answered: “I pray for world peace; I pray for a cure for cancer; I pray for clean air and water all over the world; I pray that all children will grow up healthy and happy.”

→the vendor replied:... “Do you feel like your prayers are being answered?”

→and the old rabbi answered back: “at times....I feel like I’m talking to a wall.”

→sometimes we all feel that way don’t we?

→as if we are talking to a wall...

→parents often feel that way when they try to talk to their children....

→friend’s feel that way when dealing with someone they care about is caught up in addiction....

→family members feel that way when they watch someone spiral out of control...in their family, in their relationships, or in their careers...

Even I...when standing here...preaching a homily sometimes wonder... “did what I say help anyone...or am I talking to a wall.”

→yet we believe that even when we pray and don’t get what we ask for...the Lord blesses us in some way...

→i.o.w....no prayer is ever wasted....and that seems to be the message for us today from our gospel reading.

→it recalls for us the two gifts that God has given to us....the Spirit....  
the gift that comes from the God the Father...and from Jesus...he bestows the gift of peace on  
us.

PAUSE

→today's episode, like last week, takes place with Jesus and his disciples at the Last  
Supper...

→he is trying to prepare them for everything that is about to happen....he has a lot to  
say...and little time to say it....

→and so he begins by telling the disciples about the power of the Spirit that will come  
upon them to remind them of all that he taught.

→and then he leaves with them....the gift of his "peace"

→this gift of peace....that Christ speaks of....is not so much about putting an end to hostility or  
aggression as it is about finding an inner wholeness....that urges us to be at peace with  
ourselves and others...

.....especially when we have lost our way...

→and losing our way...turning away from God's love, and not being open to it or  
accepting of it is common tendency among most of us at times...

→we all have, or possess certain attitudes, behaviors, and moods....in our lives that  
prevent us from opening up and fully accepting God's love.....and more importantly from  
sharing that love with others

→and as we hear in the 1<sup>st</sup> reading....the disciples and the early Christian community  
was not that much different

→we hear about a disagreement in the early church...regarding the practices and rules and regulations of the faith that is causing dissension among some...

→[and] in doing so, it is preventing them from being open to accepting and sharing God's love with others...

→and so Judas and Silas are sent to open the eyes and hearts of the people and help them realize the importance of seeing God's love in their lives.

→it was....and is....a very similar situation that we often can find ourselves in as well today

---[because] it is very easy and common to get wrapped up and involved in disputes and situations that can cause us to lose sight of God's love and compassion in our lives

→**to not** be at peace with ourselves and others

PAUSE

→[you know]....when you think about it, the only commandment we have ever been given by God is this

"LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, AND MIND, AND LOVE AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF"

-----and that is all God has ever asked us to do.....and that is what Christ is talking about in today's Gospel

---that is the love and the peace that He is speaking of and that the Spirit empowers us to be about

PAUSE

→6 weeks have now passed since Easter and today's celebration is a call, once again, to recognize the presence of God in our lives

→God's love and Spirit has been abundantly bestowed on us .....and no matter what we say or do in our lives

--no matter how much we refuse to accept it

--no matter how often we try to deny it

--no matter how often we try to reject it

GOD's LOVE...is always given to us...

GOD's LOVE...will always bless us

GOD's LOVE...will always be with us

→that is the inner peace Jesus speaks of today....and that should be our comfort and our hope in life

PAUSE

--our challenge remains....to be open and willing to accept God's love for us and each other...

--to be open to the peace that Christ offers to us

--and to embrace the presence of the Spirit in our lives.

→because when we do that...when we are willing and ready to love God and each other as God loves us.....it is then and only then that we will have peace, the peace that Christ gives to us today.....

→in the end our message is quite simple...yet our lesson remains ever challenging

→it is time for each one of us to find that love....find that presence...find the Spirit in

us

→so that we.....and those around us.....can truly receive his peace...

→and maybe then.....we might not feel as if we are talking to a wall....