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(Food for thought)

Gospel: John 6: 60-69.

Moment of Decision



In today's gospel we have a glimpse of a very important moment of decision faced by Jesus' disciples. Will they continue to follow him in a way that will bind them into a covenanted community - diverse, yet one people? Their decision will not only connect them to Jesus, but to each other and will also affect each and every day of their lives.

To understand and accept what Jesus says, we will have to recognize that we are dependent on God's gift of the Spirit. It is the Spirit who enables us to comprehend Jesus' words, accept them in faith and then receive and live the life they give. It is the Spirit who gives us with the faith to recognize the flesh and blood of Christ in the bread we eat and wine we drink today.

Jesus is so much more than the Messiah Peter and others are expecting. He is so much more than we think he is. We who gather at Eucharist have the vision Jesus promised. Through the gift of faith, we can see what mere human vision cannot show us. We believe that Jesus is the Word made flesh, God's total act of communication with us. This gift continues to grow and mature as we hear again the Word proclaimed to us today and as we do what Jesus has asked us to do – to eat his flesh and drink his blood.

Like the disciples, we will have to decide if we will follow God - and only God - from this moment on. We are a diverse group of folks, and yet if we make the right decision, we will be one people grounded and united in our religious identity as children of the covenant. Once again we are asked to make a life-decision that will not only bind us together but will also affect how we will live each day of our lives.

We celebrate this act of faith together, grateful for the Spirit that continues to give us life. With Peter and his companions, "We have come to believe..." and we trust that the Spirit will continue to deepen this gift of faith that we have.

