

In the Reading and Gospel for today, I was struck by these three principles...

Learning from the past, living in the present and planning for the future.

St Paul is talking about what was the final chapter of the Jewish history leading up to Christ's death and resurrection. Jesus (the Son) has died and is risen. He has been seen over a period of forty days and then, "Returned to take his place on the Heavenly throne with his Father, God."

Those who killed Jesus had not learned from the PAST, though they had all the teachings about the Messiah handed down to them through their long history. Paul is asking the people of Antioch to become believers and disciples. He explains that NOW, "You are my Son. This day I have begotten you." This message is the same TODAY.

This leads us into the Gospel and the response by Thomas who has, with all the other Apostles, failed to understand what Jesus has been trying to teach them: "How can we follow if we don't know where you are going?" Jesus' reply is crucial to all of us: "I am the Way..." To believe in the Son is to find and come to the Father.

Thomas will, finally, come to full understanding when he sees Jesus in the upper room and will say, "My Lord and my God." He and the other Apostles, empowered by the Holy Spirit will then step out into the FUTURE, as we are asked to do, and proclaim the Good News.

Jesus wants us to believe in him, just as much as Thomas. In our human weakness we can say each day, "Jesus I believe, help my unbelief."

Chris Burger, 8/5/20