

Saturday, 6th week of Eastertide

Readings of the mass – *Acts 18:23-28, Psalm 46(47), John 16:23-28*

The belief that Christ is the messiah, the one who saves is paramount to us. The poets and other authors of the old testament had been, knowingly or unknowingly, prophesying about the Christ. We feel disconnected to the psalm we have heard for the past three days without the knowledge of Christ's Ascension into heaven - "God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast". Christ certainly marks out the way for us to the Father, to His right hand – near, close to Himself, however even more importantly the Father "raised Him from the dead...made Him sit at His right hand" (Eph 1:20) with His enemies as a footstool for Him.

We see in the first reading how Apollos was a man connected to the scriptures. This often reminds of an ancient saying about St. Anthony of Padua, that he knew the Bible so well, that if some disaster destroyed all copies of it, they could still recover the Scriptures from what he knew. The pope at the time called him the "Ark of the Testament". In our reading today, Apollos demonstrated with the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ – so the intention of the scriptures is clear - to point out to us that Jesus is the saviour. Of course, that must be case because they are inspired by God and were taken down by the people the Holy Spirit used as instruments (1 Pt 1:20,21). The Holy Spirit whom the blessed mother and the Apostles awaited in great anticipation teaches us the scriptures and gives us the ability to love.

We know it is serious when Jesus says, "I tell you most solemnly", actually everything He *says* is pretty serious! But for our sake He emphasises the words that succeed, the words that demonstrate the Son's intimate union with the Father. Something which we, His children, are called to too. He tells us about the Father in 'plain words', and they are that He loves! When we love, we want the very best for those we love, and we also want to spend time with them. Jesus too makes this prayer to the Father, "those you gave me may also be with me" (Jn 17:24). The final words of the Gospel can strike differently, but maybe today we can look at it this way - we in hope, wish to gaze on the greatest beauty that is God, as we too one day leave behind all things temporal, all things in the world.

Jithin Titto. 23/5/2020