

Transparency of Jesus Fourth Week of Easter Saturday, April 23, 2016 8:15 AM
Acts 13:44-52; **Jn 14:7-14** (The Father has created a world with so much potential for good and for evil; we decide which will be what really transpires.)

“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

One of the problems growing up in any particular way of thinking is that we get used to it, but we don't appreciate it. Now you've heard this gospel many times, but have you really thought about what it means, that **Jesus is a kind of transparency, that through him we actually see God?** No other religion or faith tradition says this about their founder, that their founder is a transparency through whom one can actually see the Godhead: Thus in a true way, although not verbally, yet truly in a personal way, knowing God. **We can really know God through the transparency of Jesus and even if we ignore the person, we can see God through the works.**

Now this is very important because people are often misunderstanding everything. They do not understand what the Father is doing in the world. They mistake the work of the Father for accidents. **Most of what goes on in the world is a result of nature**, which follows various kinds of laws, some of which produce enormous chaos, like the moving of the plates that produces earthquakes and volcanoes, or the various laws of nature that produce storms and winds and hail and hurricanes and tornadoes. That's all nature. **God created nature in a sort of self-sustaining way, but it operates more or less autonomously.** Why? We don't know; this is not something revealed to us. This is what God has created.

We ourselves are autonomous: we have free will. What happens in our world is determined by human beings with free will, often those—not everybody has the same power, but **those with power have a great deal to say about the events that occur in this world.** And now through the invention of firearms even ordinary people have power to destroy, at times in a

willy-nilly manner. And all this is part of what we experience, but **none of this is the work of the Father. He has created a world with so much potential for good and for evil; we decide which will be what really transpires.** None of this is the work of the Father, only the potential.

So in Jesus we see the actual desire of the Father, the actual will of the Father. And we see it is **healing and restoring and challenging**—challenging the way people think, challenging the way people believe, inviting them into a deeper faith, a greater willingness to surrender, to trust in God, to trust God’s goodness and mercy and love and compassion. **That we see in Jesus’ works, and we see it in his character as well. That’s what God is about. All the other stuff is what we are about or what nature is about, or is actually just the result of chance.** And we have to think clearly about all these things, or our personal relationship with God will be harmed, poisoned with all kinds of toxins. If we want a pure relationship we have to see purely. And we see purely by entering into this gospel text and trying to see God through the transparency of his Son.