

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Learn from Jesus Fifth Sunday of Easter/A Acts 6:1-7; **Jn 14:1-12**
Homily given to the children at All Saints Catholic Academy May 10, 2017

“We do not know where you are going, how can we know the way?”

So boys and girls, today’s gospel reading is very important I think because it shows the **disciples in a very doubtful state of mind**; and I think we all can identify with that because if not today then tomorrow or some other day **you are going to have doubts**. You are going to wonder: **what’s life really all about?** You are going to wonder: **what is eternal life?** And there is no answer in our words, in our minds; **we cannot know that now**.

Jesus is trying to encourage us just to hang in there and to have faith in the whole of life. He says, **“You have faith in God,”** and that doesn’t mean too much. Lots of people say they have faith in God, so. Some people who say they have faith in God blow themselves up. What does that mean? Not much. Some people who say they have faith in God kill others in God’s name. What does that mean? Not much. **Jesus says, “Have faith in me,” in my humanity**. Jesus is trying to show that the whole mystery of our Christian faith is all about how **God joins our lives**. God becomes part of our lives, **lives our life** with its many trials and troubles, **with all its trials and troubles**. **Jesus is not exempt from anything, nor were the disciples**. Most of them were martyred.

They learned as they walked every day what God would do for them, how God would accompany them, not how God would save them from their troubles, not how God would make life wonderful and fill them with happiness at every moment, no, because **life is full of trials, as Jesus’ was**. But he says learn from this; **“learn from me; I am meek and humble.” I’m not special**. That is the first great lesson. In one way we are all special, but another way because we are all special no one is special. We are all beloved of God, and so therefore God

accompanies us in our lives, but that does not mean that because God is with us in our lives everything is just going to be hunky-dory. It won't be. It can't be. And through all this we learn something and we gain something. **It's not necessarily an easy lesson, but it is one we can do because Jesus has already done it.** That's why he says, "I am the way"; my humanity is the way. It's the way for you; it's the life for you. And if you trust, you trust in me, **if you live the way I show you to live, ultimately you will be happy for all eternity.**

Now on the way you are going to fall. You are going to doubt. **You are going to decide not to cooperate, and then you are going to have to evaluate how that feels.** That's why we always have to **go back to prayer, of time of quiet.** Where am I today? **How have my choices helped me or hindered me in my quest for joy and for peace? How have I helped others in their quest for joy and peace?** Ultimately Jesus shows us that our greatest happiness comes from loving others and **giving ourselves to others and for others.** That's what he means when he says, "Learn from me." When you give yourself you will find a deep satisfaction; in spite of suffering or pain or sorrow, you will have this deep satisfaction because that's how we are created. We are fashioned in the image and the likeness of God. **God is the giver, and God is a lover.** That's what the whole meaning of Christ is, that God is involving us in his God-ness, in his divinity. **His divinity becomes our divinity. His eternity becomes our eternity.**

Now I agree this is a lot to think about—this is a lot to think about. But **take some time from time to time to ponder it.**