

Farewell Discourse Fifth Week of Easter Friday, May 19, 2017 8:15 AM
Acts 15:22-31; **Jn 15:12-17** (Jesus is trying to convey to them this sense that he is willingly giving up his life for them, and that this is the greatest form of love.)

In these gospels we are unpacking the Last Supper. These are the **farewell discourses**, and they are about explaining, if you want say explaining, or **trying to help the disciples understand what Jesus is about to undergo**, that we simply call the Paschal Mystery, the mystery of **his betrayal, death, and resurrection**.

Now here he says, **“Love one another as I love you.”** His whole concern at this time is for his poor friends, and he calls them friends. They are not slaves, that is, they are not just to do what they’re told. They actually are supposed to understand it, but they don’t. He is in a way frustrated with their cluelessness. **They don’t get what he is saying**, and he is getting they don’t get it. But **he is trying to convey to them this sense that he is willingly giving up his life for them, and that this is the greatest form of love**. And that’s what he really wants them to be like too. In fact there is no point in his life at all if they don’t get this. I have come. I am giving up my life you. **You must do the same thing. You have to bear fruit that lasts**.

This is the way God has in mind to change the world. People talk about politics all the time and economics, but the problem isn’t politics or economics. It’s people who are politicians and people who are doing business in a bad way, in a dishonest way, a greedy way, a selfish way. **Everything can be done well, but people have to be motivated, as Jesus is saying here to love one another as he does**. And he’s anxious that they get this.

Now he says, “I’ve shared everything I have heard from my Father,” because the whole point of even his death is that they **understand that they are being invited into the eternal life of God**, so that he doesn’t even focus on the fact that what is now imminent is his very painful suffering. That’s not what he is looking to. He is looking to going home to the Father, kind of

skipping over this horrible day of infamy that Good Friday will be for him. He is talking about going home. Don't worry; **I'm going home. I'm giving up my life for you. You have to now accept this gift and let this gift transform your lives. That will bear fruit that will last and that will change the world.**

Now the Saints are those that we talk about who really have done this in a rather obvious way; that's why we name them. But **everyone who does this is a saint.** Everyone who does this is a true disciple of Jesus. **Everyone who allows love to be primary is truly following this.** And anyone who doesn't allow love to be primary, is not following this, regardless of what people say they believe.