

Water and Blood Christmas Weekday Friday, January 11, 2019 **1 Jn 5:5-13;** Lk 5:12-16 (There is a victory for each person when that person yields to God and acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God and therefore the pattern for our own lives.)

“Beloved: Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”

The question now: who is the victor over the world? People asking that question might say, well, Christ is the victor or God is the victor, but this says, no, **it’s the believer who is the victor, the one who believes, the one who trusts.** So John understands **the victory is something very personal.** It’s not as if there can be a unique, dramatic triumph over all that is evil in the world, all that is wrong and out of place and disordered and corrupt. Rather **there is a victory for each person when that person yields to God and acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God and therefore the pattern for our own lives.**

Now this is a very precious teaching and very important teaching. So there are many religions in the world and they all have some good to say; they all see good in the world; they all see good in creation and so on, but they don’t necessarily have a pattern for the individual person’s life. But we **do have a pattern in Christ because he is fully divine and therefore the Creator and Sustainer of all things and yet at the very same time fully human, and so he is the one who shows us the way to be.** He himself is the way; and **if we take his way, we become like him.**

Now **this is not something that is the product of our own efforts, and yet it cannot happen without our own efforts. It cannot depend on our strength, and yet it cannot take place without our commitment.** That’s the point that he is making. And it’s a point that needs to be said over and over again and impressed in our own minds.

Then he goes on: **“This is the one who came through water and Blood, not by water alone, but by water and Blood.”** Now **water has been a universal symbol of experience.** It’s

fluid. It is the source of life, actually, on the earth. It all came from the water originally, life and experience. And there are many people who are looking for the experience that will give them life, the experience that will give them the truth and so on. But this says it's not enough to have only the experience. Yes, **we can have them many times, various forms of experiences and graces that lift us up and enlighten us and so on.** All that's good. But then there's the Blood; the **Blood has a do with of course our willingness to suffer.** Jesus was able to be the model precisely because **he surrendered himself completely and allowed his own suffering and death. That's all part of the pattern; we can't leave it out.**