

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Love Will Triumph Fifth Week of Easter Saturday, May 25, 2019 Acts 16:1-10; **Jn 15:18-21** (St. Bede the Venerable, priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII; St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi) (But meanwhile God's disciples on this earth need to be ready to suffer.)

“And they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they do not know the one who sent me.”

Scripture speaks with many different voices, and some of them speak of the universality of desire: desire for the good, desire for the truth, desire for the beautiful, which is a way of saying desire for God, since God is the origin of truth, beauty, goodness. But **on the other hand there is this part of the gospel, an awareness of a negative ignorance of the world** called *kosmos*, the world, which does not know God, **which does not desire God**, which indeed hates God. **And that is also a reality.**

If we took only the first one, which has some truth to it, there are people, ignorant people who do desire what is good, who do desire the truth, who do desire the beautiful, who are moved by compassion so implicitly open to God, but there are also those who are hostile to everything that doesn't suit them, that they don't see as serving their self-interest. And **Jesus** was very aware of this in his life, and he **told his disciples that they would likewise be the target of this hostility.** And it is part of life and part of the life of faith that we acknowledge that this happens. Why? **Because no slave is greater than his master.** And since Jesus experienced this rejection, total rejection of everything he stood for: his teachings, his witness, his work, his life, because he experienced that, the disciple needs to realize that there will be some of that also. And this is why fortitude or courage, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit has to be part of our equipment. **We cannot live a faithful life of discipleship without courage, without an inner strength to hold up in the face of hostility.**

Now sadly, many people take this hostility personally. That's a mistake; it's not personal.

The hostility is way bigger than you, so it's not personal. We are simply caught up in it.

Ultimately this hostility has to be dealt with by God, but of course God does. And how does God

deal with it? Well you know, although you might not admit it, **God deals with this hostility**

through love and forgiveness. We nailed Christ to the cross. What does God do? He forgives us.

We killed the God made man. What does he do? He raises that man up to life as the firstfruits of a

whole new creation, to which he invites all of his persecutors, as well as his friends. In the

ultimate—in the ultimate—**drama of life love will be victorious, love will triumph.** Why?

Because God is love, and this is God's creation and nothing exists without God, and what God

desires eventually will come about. **But meanwhile God's disciples on this earth need to be**

ready to suffer.