



Blessed Sacrament Parish
Homily by Father Mike Kuse
May 14, 2017 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Reading I Acts 6:1-7

Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Reading II First Letter of St. Peter 2:4-9

Gospel John 14:1-12

Homily

You notice there has been a lot of repetition in the readings where Jesus is really trying to get across to his disciples, "I really am the Son of God. You have got to understand that and once you do, everything in your life is going to fall into place."

In the First Reading we are invited to become preachers. We all preach in different ways. When the apostles went out to preach, after everything that happened during the last few days, the death and resurrection, was hard for people to accept. Crowds were following them and the fact that Jesus rose from the dead was just beyond their imagination. The crowds were getting bigger and bigger and as the crowds came they had to feed them and take care of them. So the disciples decided they were going to need additional help. And that is when they began to have deacons. Men and women were called forth to be able to take care of their needs so that the apostles and the disciples could go out and preach. And preaching is the essence of who we are. You and I preach 24-7. Every single day of our lives, every word, every action in our lives, we are preaching that Word of God.

You might ask someone, "How was my sermon today?"

"What do you mean?" that person would answer.

"Well," you answer, "I mean, how did I live the Gospel today? Did I say anything to you today that would make you know that I am a Christian and that I am a loving person?"

That person might answer, "Well, yeah."

"Well, then, maybe you are seeing in me someone who is truly preaching the Gospel."

We can only preach when we know the words and that Jesus is the cornerstone. Jesus is not talking about the cornerstone of this church or school. He is talking about, "I am the person on whom the entire church is built and that the entire church will come back to the Father, and that stone is real. It is not made out of concrete. It is a real stone. It is the living stone."

And then Jesus tells us, “And because of that, I want you to know that I am the way, the truth and the light. So don’t lose that image in your heart, because if you do you are not going to be able to preach.”

You saw in the news yesterday what happened over in Syria where the people killed the children, not somebody else’s children, their own children. When it came on the news the reporter said, “Please, if you have children make sure they are not in view of the TV because they will not be able to handle this.” And a few second later the television news showed that hundreds of children had been killed. They showed the children just trying to breath and they couldn’t breath because of the gas. And they were stripping the children of their clothes and trying everything to keep them alive.

Then the reporter explained that in Syria when you die, you are buried on the day you die and it showed fathers and other men digging a grave as long as this center aisle. Then it showed the fathers taking these small dead children and carrying them over and placing them into that grave one by one. You couldn’t sit there and not cry. If all of us killed somebody else’s kids, that is horrible — but if we killed our own children, thing about it. That is not God’s Kingdom. That is not the way, the truth and the light. And those people will have to understand God’s mercy in a whole different way.

We are one family. It doesn’t make any difference of the color of our skin or gender, or how we believe or where we work or how much money we have or don’t have. We are one family and we are bonded together because of the one person who is the cornerstone. Yesterday was just one example. Children, if they are not being killed, they are being abused and not cared for right in this city, in your own back yard. And don’t pick out a certain street or a house. It goes all over the city. I traveled with the police department. You don’t have to live on Seventh Street, you can live out in the most beautiful homes and see the very same thing.

These are our children. And Jesus is saying, “I will hold you accountable. I am asking you to know that no one is better than anyone else in my Kingdom. My Kingdom is a Kingdom of love and once you stop loving, you don’t know the way. And once you stop loving, you are incapable of serving. And once you stop loving, you have no idea of who you are yourself.

And Jesus says to us, “You are my apostles, you are my disciples, you are those whom I have called to minister to one another.”

We do it well, but maybe we do not do it well enough. May you and I remember the cornerstone of our own lives, the cornerstone of our homes, the cornerstones of our parish and our city and our country and our world is the one and only Jesus Christ.

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