

Wednesday of 2nd Week of Easter 2020 - A loving God

Jesus never gives us the idea that God is a God of vengeance, a God of retribution, or a God seeking recompense for wrongs done, however bad they are. Quite the opposite, Jesus wants us to know that God bends over backwards to save us from sin and evil, and from anything and everything that would harm us. God wants us to have life to the full. Even though Jesus uses the word condemnation today it is clear that this is not what God does. Condemnation is what we do to ourselves. Without God, we look inwards, become self-isolating, and place ourselves at the centre of everything - a recipe for disaster. Not believing in Jesus is not just about words, it is also about the way we live our lives. Remember what Jesus said about the son who refused to do what his Father asked him to do but had second thoughts and did it; fulfilling the old adage, *"Actions speak louder than words!"*. The other son said yes and did nothing. So, before we begin to think that people are condemned because they do not profess faith in Jesus, we need first to look at the way they live their lives and remember that, through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God fulfilled his desire for ALL to be saved. This brings to mind the parable Jesus told about the last judgement. We will all be judged at the end by the good we have carried out in our lives.

Because we are familiar with the plagues in Egypt when Moses led the Hebrews to freedom from slavery, there is a great temptation to believe that our current pandemic is a punishment from God. This could not be further from the truth. A far better understanding would be to believe that it is a consequence of us showing little care for creation and neglecting our responsibility to nurture it. So often during his life Jesus took something that was destructive and turned it into life, sight to the blind, curing leprosy, casting out evil spirits and most of all by turning his own death into life. God saved us because God created us to do great things – even turning death into life as is being shown by the multitude of charitable works going on around us today. Despite the evils that exist, some being a consequence of the pandemic, all the manifold good deeds taking place daily are bringing new life and healing to society. **Christ is alive with joy we sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The Weight of the Glass

A psychology professor was teaching stress management principles to an auditorium full of students. As she raised a glass of water, with a smile on her face, the professor asked, "How heavy is this glass of water I'm holding?" Students shouted out answers ranging from eight ounces to a couple of pounds.

She replied, "From my perspective, the absolute weight of this glass doesn't matter. It all depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute or two, it's fairly light. If I hold it for an hour straight, its weight might make my arm ache a little. If I hold it for a day straight, my arm will likely cramp up and feel completely numb and paralyzed, forcing me to drop the glass on the floor. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it feels to me."

As the class nodded their heads in agreement, she continued, "Your stresses and worries in life are very much like this glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and you begin to ache a little. Think about them all day long, and you will feel completely numb and paralyzed – incapable of doing anything else **until you drop them!!**"

- What do you call a fish without eyes? Fsh.
- Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.

- What's the difference between the bird flu and the swine flu?
One requires **tweetment** and the other an **oinkment**.