

## Reflection Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Week Lent 2023

In his Gospel, John makes very clear the relationship that Jesus had with the Father. Jesus was completely trusting and loyal. Throughout the Gospel, John insists that Jesus, the Son, was fully obedient to whatever the Father asked of him. Jesus stands in stark contrast to Adam and Eve and their disobedience. Jesus is utterly convinced that the Father is with him all the way: guiding, teaching, gifting him with wisdom and understanding, inspiring and motivating him through the most difficult of challenges.

We can read today's gospel as though Jesus is accusing the Pharisees and condemning them to a permanent death. What if he said all this out of compassion and is trying to help the Pharisees reflect more deeply on what they were doing with the hope that they would change their ways? . . . . Isn't this what love does?

Whatever their choices, however, we have our own choices to make. The Father that helped and guided Jesus in his decisions and actions is the same Father who will help us in the same way. Rather than look towards a serpent on a pole to be saved, we have Jesus on the cross to look at and be moved and reassured by the love and mercy that we find there. Like Jesus, therefore, let us place our complete trust in the Father.