

Reflection Wednesday 6th Week Easter 2023

Paul's experience in Athens must have been extremely disconcerting. To give a long speech only to find people laughing at you must have been humiliating. No wonder he left and went off to Corinth where he had a very different experience. One of the lessons from all this is that it is extremely hard to persuade people to believe the Gospel however erudite one might be. Conversion is always the work of the Holy Spirit whom Jesus is beginning to mention more and more.

Let us remember that Paul was not converted by word of mouth but by an encounter with Jesus, who is the Truth. His encounter with the Athenians would have brought this home to him, however uncomfortable the experience.

Pope Francis: *To follow Jesus is to live "in the Spirit of truth" and bear witness to God's truth, merciful love and fidelity. Every person affirms or negates this truth with their every act — from minor everyday situations to more serious choices, so people need to ask themselves whether they are upright and truthful in their words and deeds, "or am I more or less a liar disguised as truth?"*

This truth is not spoken so much with a speech. It is a way of being, a way of living and you see it in every single deed. To not bear false witness means to live like children of God who never ever refutes or contradicts himself, and never tells lies. It is living in a way that every deed reveals the great truth that God is the Father and that you can trust in him. God loves me, he loves us and (from that) springs my truth, to be truthful and not deceitful.