

5th Sunday of Easter C



THE GOSPEL John 13:31-33a, 34-35

As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.

Christ,
let us live out
your “one thing necessary”:

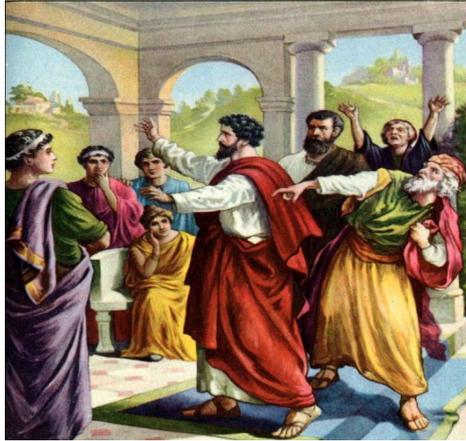
the treasure of having and giving your love.

Not fair-weather love,
not hearts-and-flowers,
but your own radical
no-limits kind.

Make us yours,

giving
all we have:
all our wealth,
our body and blood,
our heart and soul,
hands and feet,
our precious
time.

Show us that
the one thing necessary
is to accept and to give your love. (*Annie Osdieck*)



(Paul & Barnabas proclaim the Good News on their 1st Missionary Journey)

THE FIRST READING Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas proclaimed the good news to that city.

Paul
and Barnabas
roamed through the lands
as they spread the Good News.

Lord,
send us too.
Open your doors.
What we do, where we go,
what we say,
let it be
us
proclaiming your love.

Let us

open the doors of faith
for all who want
to come
in.

THE SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-5a

Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race.

Jesus,

we
need you

to be close to us,
to walk right with us always,
on rocky roads, or flowery paths,
in dark or light.

You dwell with us and we are yours.
Wipe away the Ukrainians' tears.
Breathe on us again and
inspire us to fix our
planet and our
biases.

Let us help as
you make all things new.

Reflection:

Fr. John Predmore S.J. in a Reflection on today's readings, notes the success of Paul and Barnabas in their mission of building up the faith in various cities in Asia Minor, and how the will of God continued to bring more and more Gentiles (non Jews) into the faith.

This period of the church becomes a time of celebration, and that factors into the type of God that Paul and Barnabas preached. They spoke of a Crucified God, a broken God, but that this God was preached by Jesus as a loving Father calling persons to a new freedom. This type of God was good news to the people, who otherwise only knew a remote, impersonal God, who was largely unconcerned with the welfare of the people and for whom death was a final, complete obstacle. For Paul to preach about these new characteristics of God as the warm, loving Father of Jesus, who was intimately concerned about the friends of Jesus was a welcome message that changed the face of the earth and has given hope to countless billions of people.

Our loving God calls us to a new freedom. That's what the Resurrection affords us. We are free from fear, death, and being slaves to sin, and we are freed for courage, and eternal life, with the conscience to make choices that contribute to the better life of the community. We know that God is our friend and advocate and will support our ability to flourish and to reach our potential with the help of many friends. We need this type of God today if we are to let our past go so we can embrace the possibilities for a renewed life in Christ.

LOVE 
one
another
AS I HAVE
loved
 you
John 13:34

